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CALIFORNIA DIVING news

October 2025

News

Gil Zeimer urges divers to join Blue Friday

Dive Spotlights

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Bluefish Cove, Carmel

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CATALINA ISLAND

Africa Cove

Dale Sheckler visits a site dominated by its topography

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EASY DIVING IN CURRENTS

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Plus...

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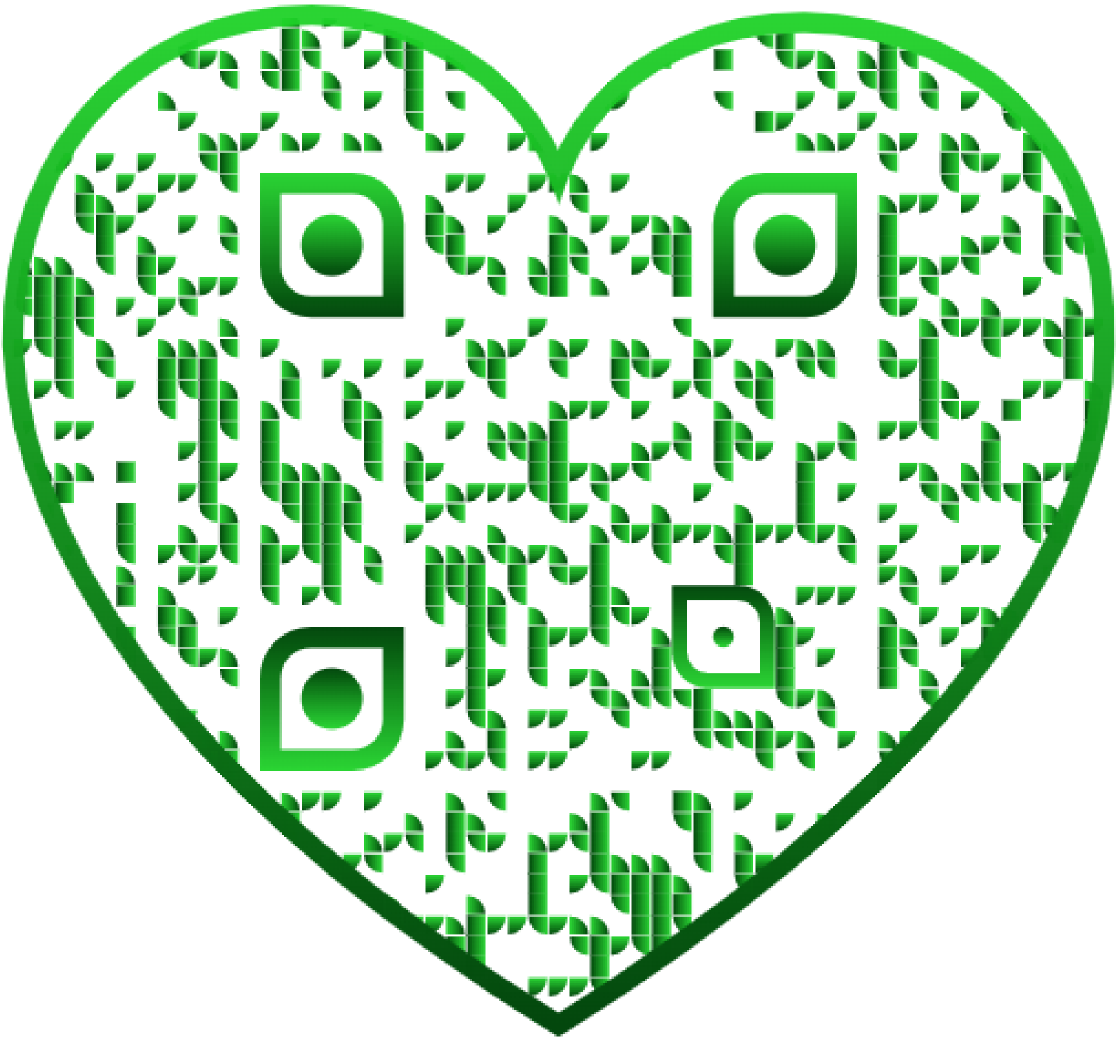
WHERE TROUBLE BEGINS...

Robert N. Rossier offers hints on how to avoid common underwater problems



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fromtheeditor

Welcome to our second 'full issue' of California Diving News, and there is plenty for you to 'dive into' from all of your favorite authors.

Bruce Sudweeks heads for Bluefish Cove in Carmel for his Central California Dive Spotlight, and extols the virtues of the Point Lobos State Nature Reserve. While acknowledging that Bluefish Cove can be rather difficult to access, he maintains it is well worth the effort.

Meanwhile, the Catalina Island Dive Spotlight is on Africa Cove (even author Dale Sheckler, a seasoned Catalina Island diver, doesn't know where the name originated!), and he waxes lyrical about the impressive terrain of this dive site, which is set off by a spectacular array of marine life species attracted by nutrient-rich upwellings from the depths.

In the first of this month's Feature Articles, Robert N Rossier offers some hints and advice on how to avoid common underwater problems, and highlights how proper planning and preparation can limit issues at the dive site.

Our second Feature Article comes from Dale Sheckler. He offers some sage advice on diving in currents, touching on some of the main challenges, and some handy techniques.

You will find all of the departments still all present and correct, including the California dive boat calendar, the Scuba Events Calendar, and the directory for Dive Centers and Dive Clubs.

And at the back of California Diving News, you can find the latest #AskMark column from Mark Newman, our YouTube Channel guru, who is here to answer a wide range of questions asked by viewers, and share some of his expert knowledge. If you have a dive-related question, no matter how basic or bizarre, fire away with your queries on our social media channels, and who knows, you might see your question in the magazine.
Until next time - dive safe!

Mark Evans, Editorial Director

MEET THE TEAM

CALIFORNIA DIVING news

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"Best coral ever. Great staff. We had outstanding guides. Resort buildings and layout are attractive and functional and the operations for snorkeling and equipment were easy & convenient. The bungalow was very comfortable. I really appreciated the help at the airport!"

~ Charles Glass (April 2025)

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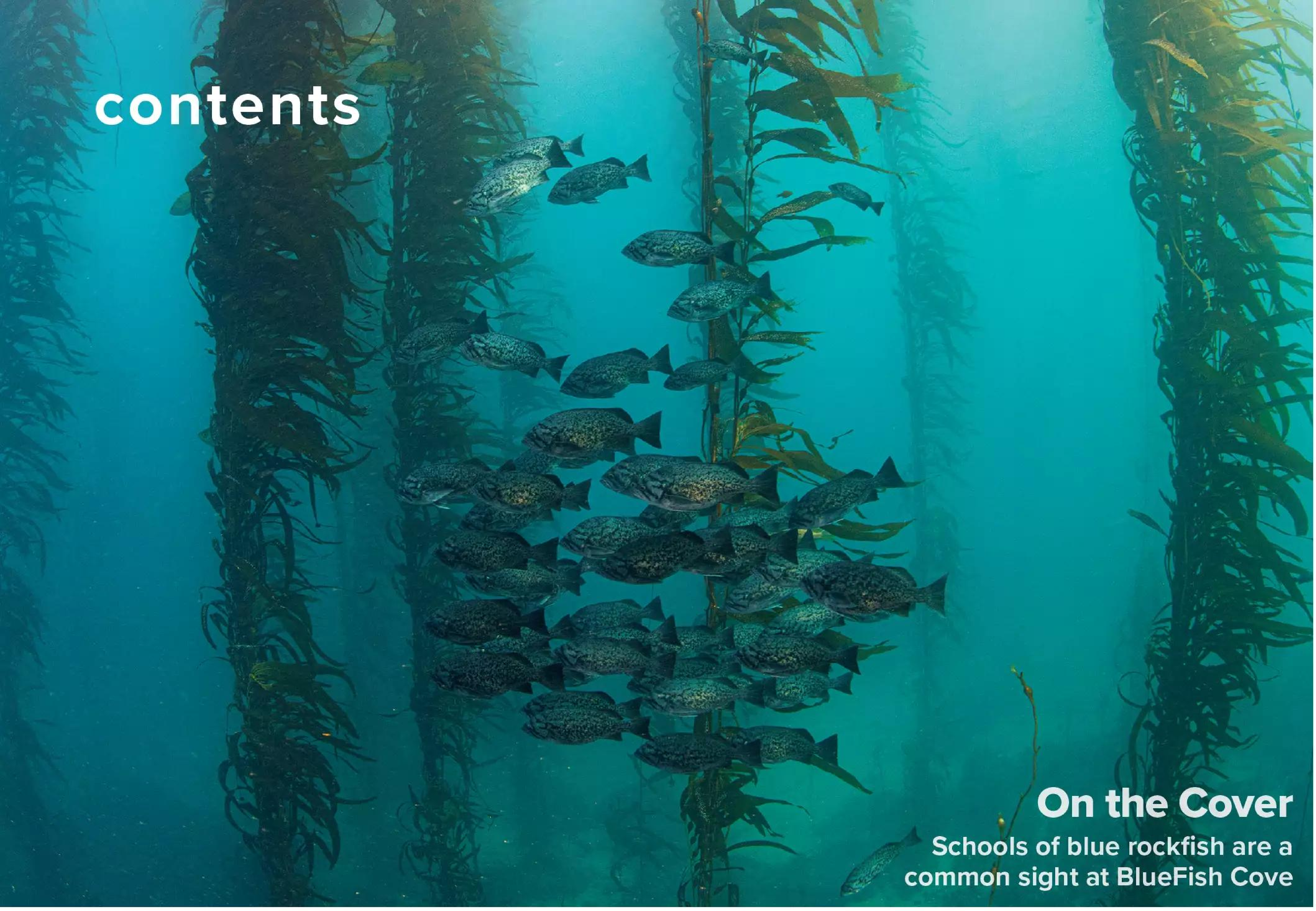
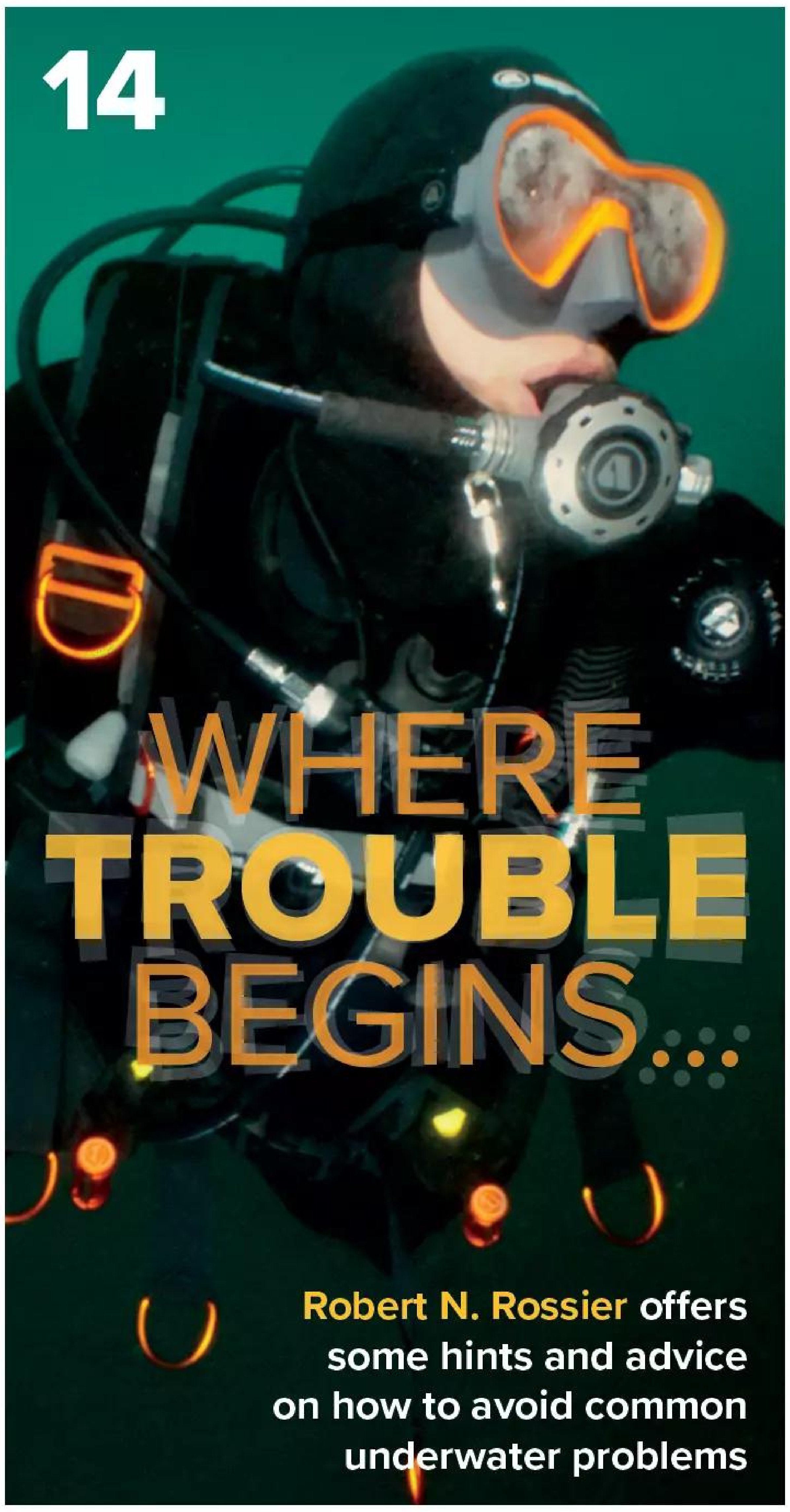


On the Cover

Schools of blue rockfish are a common sight at BlueFish Cove

FEATURE ARTICLE



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Story by Gil Zeimer

GOING SHOPPING ON BLACK FRIDAY? CELEBRATE BLUE FRIDAY 5.0 INSTEAD

Here's a multiple-choice question... Which would you rather do on the day after Thanksgiving?

☐ A. Get up at the crack of dawn to fight a horde of shoppers for deeply discounted items and get mauled at the mall?

☐ B. Eat leftovers for breakfast (turkey and egg omelet), lunch (turkey and cranberry sauce sandwich), and dinner (turkey á la king)?

☐ C. Chillax and go scuba dving?

The correct answer to give back to the Earth and skip plastic consumerism is 'C'.

In fact, this healthy alternative to Black Friday is called 'Blue Friday'. It's now in its fifth year, and its slogan is 'Don't Shop. Dive'.

Today, more divers are getting wet in more than 170 countries year-round, while the absurdity of fighting the crowds to find the year's best bargains is being celebrated in over 120 countries.

The first Blue Friday: A new holiday tradition

Since 2021, the Marin Scuba Club and the Dive Club of Silicon Valley, both in Northern California, have been embracing Blue Friday, which was the brainchild of Kenneth Carter of Mill Valley, CA.

Ken Carter and his son.
Photo by Niles Szwed, 2021

He said, "I was inspired by REI closing its stores the day after Thanksgiving. That's why the members of both of these clubs are avoiding the malls to diving at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve in Carmel-by-the-Sea, within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

"It started as an excuse to take my son, who had just gotten his Open Water certification, diving in California waters throughout the year. I woke up one morning and booked all of the reservations at Point Lobos in 2021. Because we had such a great time with excellent visibility and virtually no other divers the first year, we decided to launch a second annual trip the next year, and have tried to dive every year since."

The second Blue Friday: Varying visibility at Point Lobos

When Robert Louis Stevenson lived in Monterey in 1879, he called it "The most felicitous meeting of land and sea in the world." Though we all know that it's beautiful, above and below the waves, ten divers from the two dive clubs braved the chilly Point Lobos waters, rough seas, and varying visibility for the second annual Blue Friday in 2022.

Their logbooks reflected encounters with rockfish, kelpfish, and a small herd of sheepshead. Sadly, they discovered that purple sea urchins had destroyed the preserve.

The third Blue Friday: High tides and churned up water

For 2023, we heavily promoted Blue Friday in California Diving News and other media outlets with the hopes that more divers would participate in more locations. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other ideas. On the Monterey Peninsula, Jim Van Gogh, a member of the Dive Club of Silicon Valley, reported: "My buddy and I ascertained that the conditions were less than stellar. The tide was very high, with a big swell. The water was very churned up, aerated, and dirty. So, we bailed on the dive and just hiked."

But Kerwin Lewis, a Marin Scuba Club member who lives on the Big Island of Hawaii, and Natalie and Shannon Shuman, the American co-owners of Sun Divers Roatan, both enjoyed warm weather and excellent visibility.

The fourth Blue Friday: Finally, a global finprint

Even though the weather negatively affected diving for Blue Friday 2023 in California, some of its positive news spread to other parts of the globe. The result? It was embraced by more people in more places than ever before:

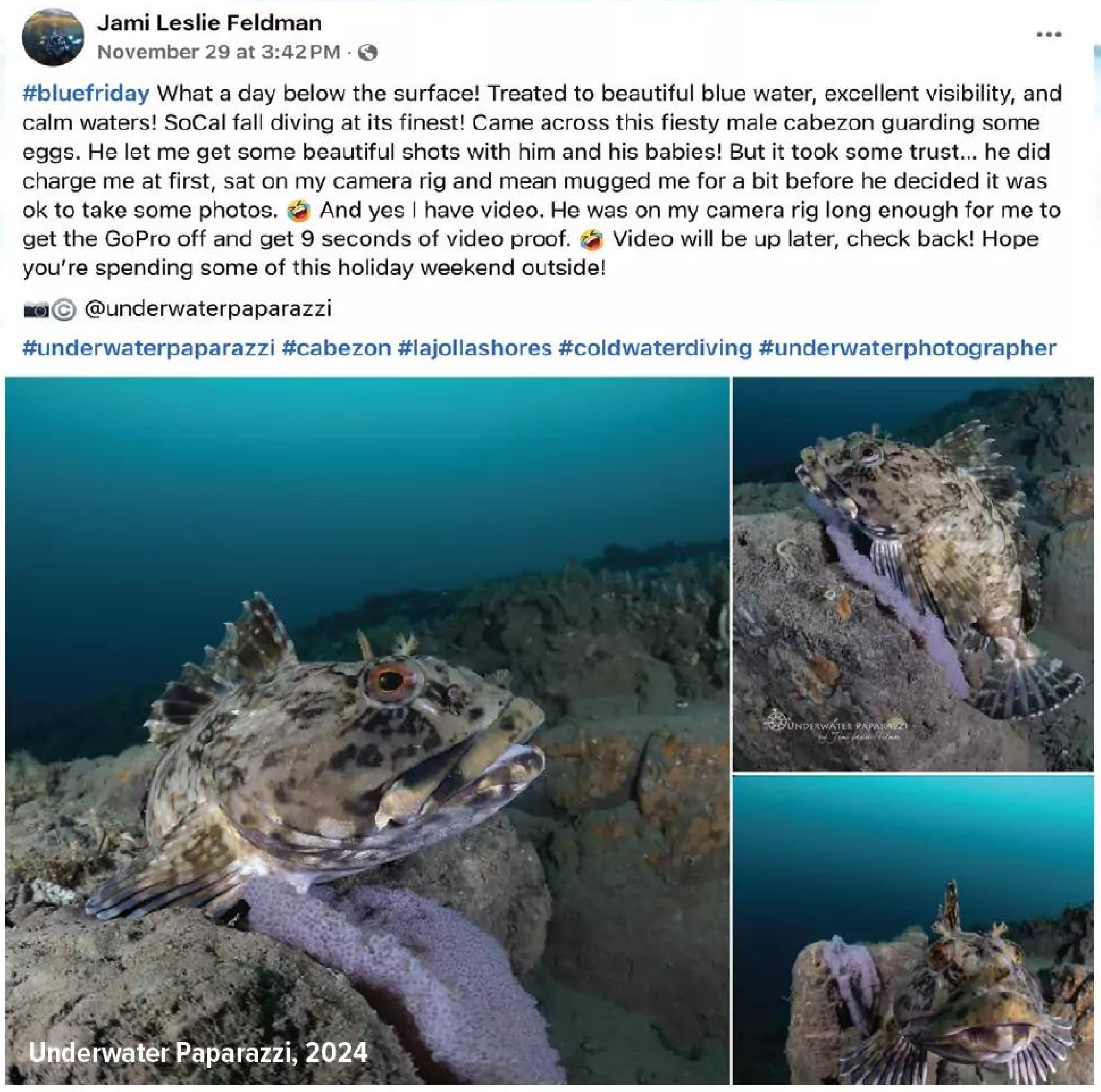
- In the southwestern Pacific, Terry and Cathie Cummins of Dive Queensland spent Blue Friday in the Coral Seas, Australia, on Mike Ball Dive Expeditions' Spoilsport to dive Ashmore Reef and Raine Island.

Terry and Cathie Cummins, GBR, 2024

- In the mid-Pacific, Kerwin Lewis, chartered a boat with Blue Wilderness Dive Adventures out of Kawaihae Harbor in Hawaii. He exclaimed, "Ideal diving conditions. Surface temperature 83°, water temperature 80°. Visibility was the best I've seen in months – about 100 feet!"

Kerwin Lewis, Big Island, 2024

- In the eastern Pacific, our friend



Jami Leslie Feldman
November 29 at 3:42 PM ·

#bluefriday What a day below the surface! Treated to beautiful blue water, excellent visibility, and calm waters! SoCal fall diving at its finest! Came across this fiesty male cabezon guarding some eggs. He let me get some beautiful shots with him and his babies! But it took some trust... he did charge me at first, sat on my camera rig and mean mugged me for a bit before he decided it was ok to take some photos. 🤣 And yes I have video. He was on my camera rig long enough for me to get the GoPro off and get 9 seconds of video proof. 🤣 Video will be up later, check back! Hope you're spending some of this holiday weekend outside!

📷© @underwaterpaparazzi

#underwaterpaparazzi #cabezon #lajollashores #coldwaterdiving #underwaterphotographer

Underwater Paparazzi, 2024

Jami Leslie Feldman of "#UnderwaterPaparazzi" dove in San Diego, California. She added, "What a day below the surface! Treated to beautiful blue water, excellent visibility, and calm waters!"

- Here in California, Mike Smith of Marin Scuba Club, and Chris Cervellone of Sea Divers Scuba Dive Club in Redondo Beach, chartered the Peace Dive Boat for three days to San Miguel in the Channel Islands, CA, with 15 other adventurers. They encountered clear skies, good visibility, above-average temperatures, and exceptional conditions for lobster hunting and diving.

Chris Cervellone and son, Channel Islands, CA, 2024

Amigos del Mar, Banco Chinchorro.
Photo by Heiko Goetze, 2024

- In the Western Caribbean, Heiko Goetze of Amigos del Mar, dove at Banco Chinchorro and Mahahual Reef. He reported, "Water temp was 84 F. Viz was 50-100 feet. Saw nurse sharks, eagle rays, turtles, and lots of tropical fish."

- About 550 miles south, Natalie Shuman of Sun Divers Roatan focused on "Changing Black Friday to Blue Friday by swapping the shallowness for something deeper. Water temp was 82. We didn't find a single piece of debris, but we did find a hammerhead."

Join us for Blue Friday 5.0 - 28 November

Like last year, Blue Friday is again falling on the last weekend of November. As always, members of several Northern California dive clubs will convene at Point Lobos in Carmel, California, for some shore dives. If the weather is mild, they may extend the trip with shore dives for a Bluer Saturday on 29 November in the Carmel/Monterey area, or even for Bluest Sunday on 30 November.

In addition, our colleagues are again poised to get wet on the Big Island of Hawaii... Sun Divers Roatan will host a 'Dive Against Debris' at its PADI Adopt The Blue dive site, joined by members of The Coral Reef Alliance, then will conduct a beach clean-up that evening in Half Moon Bay... Our amigos at Amigos del Mar in Mahahual, Mexico, will do some drift dives in the Western Caribbean... Our mates at Dive-Queensland.com in Australia will dive in the Coral Sea, as will our new connections at NECO Marine in Palau... with more participants to come.

Stateside, Marin Diving Center in San Rafael, CA, will host training classes in its pool, Jami Leslie Feldman has plans to dive in San Diego if weather and conditions permit, and the 216-member Chicago Underseas Explorer Society will be using Roosevelt High School's facilities for a Blue Friday celebration.

Or organize your own Blue Friday even

We invite you to organize your own Blue Friday celebrations. It's this easy:

For divers: Go diving the day after Thanksgiving, or anytime that week, then send an email to gil@zeimer.com to let me know you participated, attach a photo or two, add a description of where you went and what you saw, or include a link to your social media. I'll include it in a follow-up story later this year.

For dive shops, boats, and resorts: Kick off your holiday sales a week earlier or all week long, from Monday through Sunday, to free up divers who want to 'Dive... Then Shop!' Or lead a group Blue Friday dive event to a beach or lake near you.

Wherever you are, warm or cold water, great vis or not, start planning your Blue Friday 5.0 dive for the last weekend of November. Ask your dive group, shop, club, and buddies to join you, but if you can't get wet, at least visit and support your local shop during its holiday sale.

With your expanding global participation, Blue Friday can continue to grow as an evergreen holiday event each year. ■

About the author

A PADI-certified diver since 1985, Gil Zeimer has written more than 300 scuba articles, blogs, and newsletters that have appeared in over 25 magazines and websites. His first book, Scuba Storyteller: Mostly Humorous Diving Tales by an Addicted AquaNut is now available for pre-orders at www.ScubaStoryteller.com and will debut at DEMA. He lives in San Rafael, California.

Story and photographs by Bruce Sudweeks

BLUEFISH COVE, CARMEL CA

According to the Point Lobos State Nature Reserve website, it is considered the crown jewel of the 280 California state parks. This is due to the fact that there are rare plant communities, unique geological features above and below the water line, and incredibly rich fauna and flora on land and sea. Of the 280 state parks, there are 47 state nature reserves. Point Lobos is one of these reserves. A state nature reserve provides an additional level of protection and conservation over and above a state park. Before you visit, check the website for the preserve usage rules.

Long before Point Lobos became a nature reserve, its natural resources were ravaged in multiple ways. In the mid- to late-1800s, Point Lobos was the hub for the whaling industry. Next was the abalone fishery, which was considered to be the 'abalone center of the world' up until about 1960. The area was also a granite quarry for a period of time. In 1973, Point Lobos became a reserve and started its come-back.

Bluefish Cove is one of the diving gems of the Monterey Bay region that is a bit difficult to reach. One of the reasons for its limited accessibility is due to the fact that it is located

At-A-Glance

Skill Level: Intermediate to advanced.

Location: Within Point Lobos State Park.

Access: Whaler's Cove parking lot. There is a $10 parking fee, $10 kayak launch fee, and fees to dive.

Facilities: Bathrooms are located near the Whaler's Cove parking lot.

Entry and Exit: Enter/exit via the boat ramp at the Whaler's Cove parking lot.

Depth Range: 40ft to over 100ft.

Conditions: Should be pretty good as long as the swell is not coming from the north.

Visibility: 15 to 80 feet

Photography: Bluefish is a good place to go big (wide angle photography). Macro photography is excellent as well.

Hunting: Bluefish Cove is within the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve, which is complete no-take area. The most-accurate rules are available via the FishLegal mobile app.

Cautions: The channel between Whaler's Cove and Bluefish Cove can be dangerous when the surf is up.

within Point Lobos State Nature Reserve. The second reason that makes it difficult to dive Bluefish Cove is that it is a rather long surface swim from Whaler's Cove. Diving Bluefish Cove takes some planning, preparation, dusting off some diving skills you learned in order to earn your certification card, and potentially learning some new skills. The planning aspect of the dive starts days or weeks ahead of time and consists of making reservations to dive at Point Lobos State Park (see www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353). Diving at Point Lobos is a highly regulated activity; there are daily limits regarding the total number of divers, fees to be paid, no solo diving, and you will be asked to show your diving certification card when entering the park. The full set of rules can be seen at the link provided above.

Once the planning phase is complete and the reservations have been made, the preparation phase can be begin. As mentioned earlier, one of the reasons why Bluefish Cove is difficult to access is the long surface swim. One solution to this obstacle is to make use of a kayak. If kayak diving is a new skill, the preparation phase may involve renting, borrowing, purchasing, or retrofitting a kayak. The key features of a kayak that can be used for diving are straps ▸

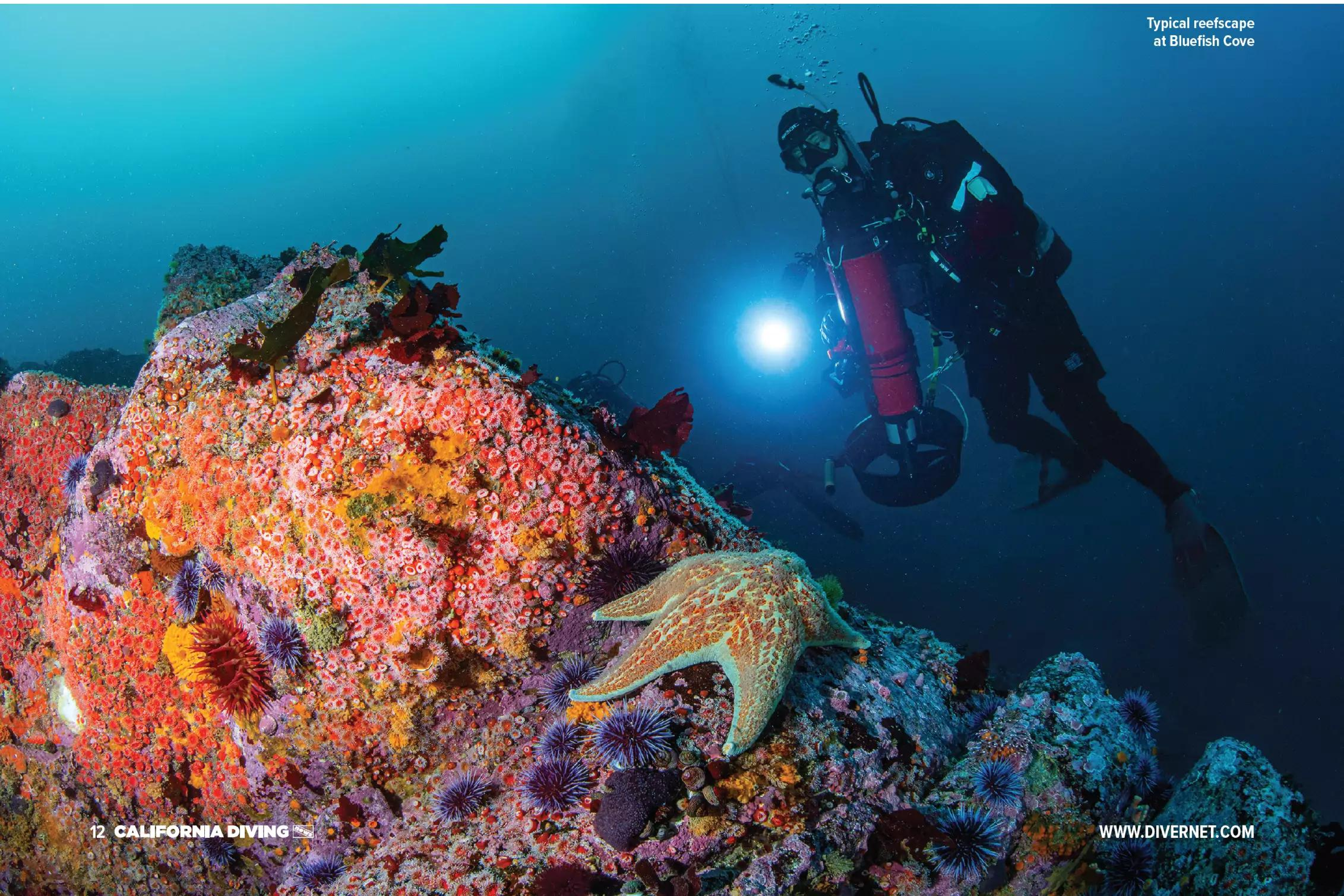
Stunning beauty above and below the water line for all your gear, enough buoyancy to float you and all your gear, tie-downs that can be used to attach ropes, and a scuba tank well molded into the kayak body. In my opinion, the best models for diving are the sit-atop ocean kayaks. One new piece of equipment that you will need is something that can be used to secure the kayak while you are diving. This could be an anchor or kelp clip. Kelp clips can be purchased or can be made from rope and battery jumper cable clamps.

The certification skills that you may have to refresh are related to donning and doffing your dive gear while in the water. The recommended sequence is to secure your kayak, put on your fins, inflate your buoyancy compensator (BCD), lower your tank/BCD unit into the water, lower yourself into the water, don your BCD, attach your weightbelt (if weights not integrated), perform your buddy check, put on your mask, make note of where you parked the kayak, set a compass heading, and dive. Good navigation skills are useful when kayak diving so you may have to refresh.

Once the preparation phase is complete, I recommend arriving at the front gates of Point Lobos State Park when they open at 8am the day of your dive in order to get a parking spot at Whaler's Cove. Make sure to coordinate with your dive buddy to arrive at the same time in order to check in together as a dive team. Be prepared to show your dive certification card at the front gate when entering the park. If your certification card does not have your photo, you may need to show photo identification as well.

When you arrive at Whaler's Cove make note of the conditions. If the swell is up there may be waves breaking in the channel between Whaler's Cove and Bluefish Cove. The channel is defined by Cannery Point, near shore, and Bird Rocks, away from shore. If the conditions look questionable scrap the idea of kayak diving Bluefish Cove and stay within the protection of Whaler's Cove. If you have decided to kayak dive, assemble your tank, regulator, and BCD and strap the assembly to the kayak, then attach all the other gear (fins, mask, hood, gloves, camera, kelp clip, weights, etc). Try to balance the weight (e.g. tank on back, weights up front) in the kayak. Now put on your wet/dry suit and shove off. Ocean entry and exit at Whaler's Cove is only allowed via the paved boat ramp connected to the parking lot. As you are paddling out of Whaler's Cove, you will see Cannery Point on your left and there will be a channel between the point and Bird Rocks. The channel is the entrance to Bluefish Cove. The structure within the cove is very diverse.

The dive site consists of multi-colored rock pinnacles and walls covered in hydrocorals, strawberry anemones, and sponges. The bottom depth varies from 40ft to over 100ft. The Carmel Trench comes quite close to Bluefish Cove, so large animal sightings are common. The dive site has a good mix of small creatures (e.g. huge variety of nudibranchs) and large animals (e.g. sea lions, seals, bat rays, whales, sharks, and sheephead). Bluefish does not get a lot of divers and no hunters, so the sea life is plentiful and not accustomed to visitors. The purple urchin invasion has not hit Bluefish and Whaler's Coves as bad as some of the other areas in the Monterey Bay Area, so there is some kelp remaining. After diving Bluefish Cove, you are likely to get back on the internet as soon as you get home and reserve your next Point Lobos diving adventure.



Typical reefscape
at Bluefish Cove

View of Whaler's Cove
from Bluefish Cove

WHERE TROUBLE BEGINS...

Robert N. Rossier offers some hints and advice on how to avoid common underwater problems

Photographs by Mark Evans

Diving is, overall, a pretty safe sport. Over the decades, certification agencies have upped their game, providing a wide array of training programs designed to prepare divers to safely explore any number of underwater environments. At the same time, the quality, reliability, performance, and capability of our modern scuba equipment has evolved far beyond that used by early explorers of the deep. Still, even experienced divers can occasionally find themselves over their heads (pardon the pun) while engaged in underwater adventures. If we take a look at the types of problems divers encounter, we may find some clues as to how we can make our diving safer and more enjoyable.

The basis of what follows is derived from several sources, including the Divers Alert Network (including their Project Dive Exploration), the South Pacific Undersea Medical Society (SPUMS) Diving Incident Monitoring Study (DIMS), and British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) Diving Incidents Reports. In addition to those sources are observations, individual reports, and anecdotal accounts, including some of my own. Together, these provide some valuable insight into diving safety, and the sorts of issues that occasionally arise when diving.

What goes wrong

The problems that divers encounter underwater can be generally categorized as equipment related or procedurally related. That is, divers encounter trouble when their equipment malfunctions, or when they themselves fail in their judgement, decision-making, or procedures. However, many times the problems encountered are due to a combination of these factors. With that preface, let's take a look at where trouble begins.

Topping the list of equipment issues are those involving mask, fins, BCDs, computers, scuba units, and weight systems. Typical mask problems include fogging and flooding. Many of us have had the experience of a mask leaking excessively, or a mask being accidentally kicked by a diver in front of us, causing it to flood or fall off. If we don't inspect our masks regularly, nicks in the skirt can form that causes leakage, or a strap can deteriorate causing it to fail. Most times, divers rely on their training to resolve such problems underwater – except maybe for the strap failure. But for some divers, mask problems can be serious, causing anxiety, disorientation, buddy separation, or in some cases, a rapid ascent. Occasionally, a diver will resort to surfacing to resolve the problem, and may ignore established safe limits on ascent rate. Such a scenario have the potential to lead to other medical complications. ▸

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Fin problems are typically caused by a loose or broken fin strap, and result in a diver's inability to swim effectively. This can sometimes result in a dive being terminated along with an arduous swim to shore or the dive boat.

BCD issues generally result in the diver being unable to properly maintain their buoyancy. As a result, they may struggle to maintain their depth, causing physical exhaustion and greater air consumption. In some cases, the diver will be entirely unable to maintain depth control, resulting in an uncontrolled ascent or a struggle to regain the surface. In one case, a diver suffered a failure of a vent valve in the BCD, making it unable to retain air. The diver struggled to ascend to the surface. Another diver recovered the valve seat, spring, and cover, which had separated from the BCD at depth. Fortunately, nobody suffered any injuries, but this case points out the need for careful maintenance and pre-dive inspection.

Weight systems also affect a diver's ability to maintain proper buoyancy, but the degree and speed at which problems can develop can make them more likely to devolve into a more-serious problem. Something as simple as frayed stitching in a weight pocket or a worn weight belt buckle can lead to a sudden failure and release of weights, which sends a diver on an unplanned and undesired rapid ascent. Loose and unchecked weight belts are known to shift and rotate about a diver's waist, making it impossible for the diver to reach the buckle to make adjustments or to ditch the belt in an emergency.

Scuba units are generally very reliable, but when divers do suffer problems, they tend to escalate rapidly. Anxiety heightens quickly when a diver cannot breathe, or is unable to get sufficient air. For example, if a diver is suddenly having trouble breathing (e.g. out of air) and is not in close proximity to his or her buddy, then the decision to make an immediate (and likely rapid) ascent is more likely to occur.

Dive computers have undergone staggering improvements over the years, and are generally quite reliable. However, data suggests that divers sometimes experience issues such as loss of power, inability to read or understand the data display, or failure to activate the device before diving. In addition, it's sometimes easy to select the wrong breathing gas, or to not account for some variables such as a diver's physical state, level of hydration, core temperature, and environmental conditions that might affect the viability of the device's output. Since the vast majority of divers use their computers as a dive planning tool, they might not be able to properly track their residual nitrogen levels in the event they need to switch to another computer in the midst of multi-day diving.

Among the judgement, decision-making, and procedural errors that result in underwater problems are attempting to dive in environments for which a diver isn't trained, failure to perform proper equipment maintenance and pre-dive checks, failure to follow established procedures and limits, poor dive planning, and inadequate monitoring of the dive. Although complacency, over-confidence, and peer pressure can sometimes be the underlying cause, it's also easy to become distracted or excited during a dive. Spotting something that seemingly demands further investigation, or that presents a great photo opportunity, can easily send us beyond our planned depth, or beyond our planned bottom time or air consumption.

Triggering events

When considering the development of underwater problems, we should note that while the problem might seem random, there may be triggering events that initiate the problem and cause its escalation. Such events can be beyond our control, or caused by decisions we make before or during a dive. Either way, we should consider the potential for such events, and take steps to avoid or mitigate them.

Such triggering events might include physical exhaustion, excessive cold, environmental conditions such as rough seas, strong currents, or loss of visibility. These can zap our energy and raise anxiety as we struggle to overcome the challenges. Entrapment or entanglement, such as in unseen fishing lines, nets, wrecks, or even kelp can also trigger an event, causing us to remain below and cut our precious air supply short. Changing weather conditions at the surface such as thunderstorms or fog can also serve as triggering events, upping the challenge to make a surface swim to the beach or boat.

Strategies for avoidance

Avoiding problems underwater requires attention to a number of details. Complacency, overconfidence, and peer pressure can cause any of us to miss cues, cut corners, and make mistakes that can lead to problems on a dive. ▸

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XL
NORTHERN DIVER

However, if we refocus on the fundamentals of safe diving as described below, we may be able to avoid most of the chaos.

Proper Training and Recent Experience – Diving is a sport that individuals of varied ages and physical abilities can enjoy, but it does take a modicum of training to dive safely. We need to have training that matches the environments in which we dive. Our diving skills and comfort level can also degrade over time if not put to use. If our diving experiences lapses, we should consider getting recurrent training to sharpen our skills and knowledge.

Equipment Familiarity and Skills Practice – Safe diving requires us to develop and maintain a high level of competence and confidence, which reduces anxiety and lessens the potential for panic. By routinely practicing such skills as mask clearing, air share, emergency ascents, regulator freeflow, and stuck inflator valves, we develop the needed reflexive responses to such situations.

Maintenance Procedures – One cause of dive equipment problems is poor or lack of maintenance. Worn stitching or Velcro fasteners, air leaks, corrosion, sticking valves, and broken mask and fin straps are just some of examples of maintenance issues that can lead to equipment malfunctions and failures underwater. Performing routine maintenance such as cleaning and inspection, and prescribed preventative maintenance such as regulator servicing, can go a long way toward avoiding equipment failures and malfunctions.

Dive Planning and Buddy Briefing – Among the elements of a good dive plan and buddy briefing is an honest evaluation of environmental conditions, as well as individual diver condition and capabilities. We should make it a habit to set limits that lay within the training, experience, and capabilities of ourselves and our buddies. A review of hand signals will help ensure clear underwater communication. We should take the time to familiarize each other with our equipment to ensure we can provide any needed underwater assistance.

Another key step in the planning process is to establish a minimum air reserve at which the dive will turn around or end. Make it a rule and emphasize that any diver can call any dive at any time for any reason. As we work through our planning, we should give thought to potential triggering events that could foul up our dive, and discuss the procedures to be used in such situations as buddy separation. Such conversations can occur on the way to the dive site, or just prior to the dive.

Pre-dive Checks – One excellent practice is to always perform a head-to toe or similar check before each dive, and then perform a quick operational test of our regulator before entering the water. Many incidents have occurred when a diver enters the water only to find that his air is turned off. Once in the water, we should perform buoyancy checks, and conduct an S-check or similar safety check before descent. Over time, complacency can become an issue, and it's just too easy to omit some of these critical steps, but they can and do prevent divers from making embarrassing (or worse!) mistakes.

The Right Equipment – Remember that various forms of specialty diving require additional accessory gear, or higher performance equipment. All of us, regardless of training or experience, should ensure we have an appropriate and properly operating alternate air source, or consider carrying a redundant air source. Proper exposure suits and accessories can reduce heat loss and air consumption, as well as help maintain our mental acuity. Night diving requires at an absolute minimum a primary and back-up light source. A BCD should be properly sized for the individual and the environment (more capacity in cold water).

Document the Dives – An old habit I've had since I started diving decades ago is to document some basic information about each dive once it's complete. Sure, our dive computer does a reasonable job of tracking essential parameters, but additional information can be helpful in the event of a computer failure, or for planning future dives. A record of bottom time, depth, and air consumption can help us with future air management planning. Knowing the water temperature, depth, what exposure protection we were wearing, how much weight we carried, and how comfortable we were can help us set up our gear for future dives. Visibility and other elements or comments regarding what went right and what could have gone better on the dive can serve as a reminder of our experiences, and help us prepare and perform better on future dives.

Conclusion

Diving is a safe sport, but it does hold inherent risks. Fortunately, most of these are under our control. By staying focused on safety and following established best practices, we can minimize and mitigate most of the risks, and enjoy trouble-free diving. ■

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* per diver, double occupancy.

Photo: Mike Veitch

Photo: Tim Rock

Photo: David Fleetham

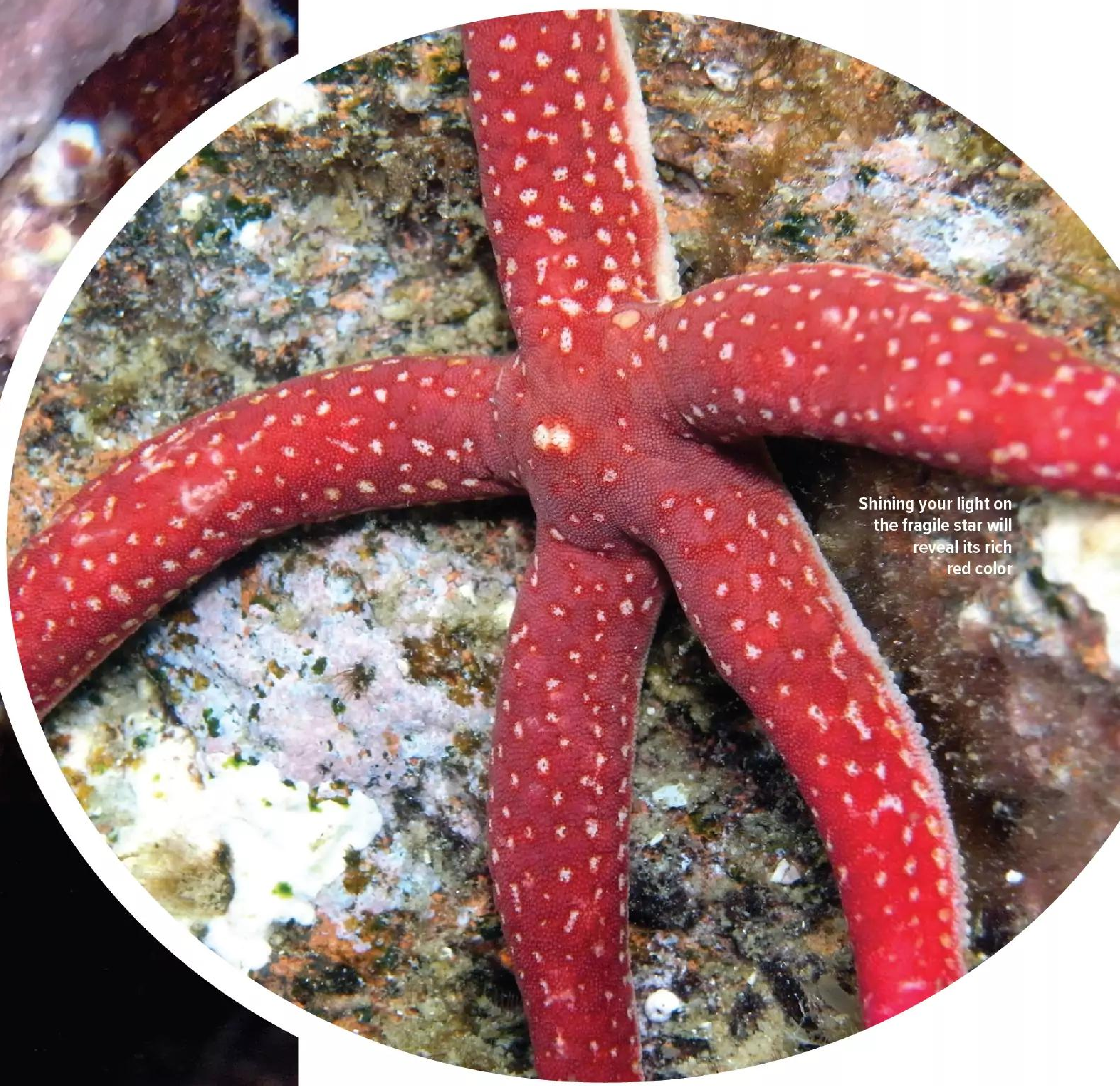
Story and photos by Dale and Kim Sheckler

CATALINA ISLAND: AFRICA COVE

As directed by the dive charter boat skipper, I headed west from this odd rocky indent in the island that could hardly be called a cove. Africa. An unusual name to be sure. I never bothered to ask its origin, but perhaps in was named for the multitude and variety of critters.

Almost immediately I found a pair of moray eels entangled with one another. Unlikely they were in a mating embrace. Good evidence shows that morays reproduce in warmer waters to the south and larvae drift up on currents to settle in warmer sections of the Channel Islands. They were in a tight hole and could have been just competing for space.
In another hole just to the left were a half a dozen lobster. Large were mixed in with the small. Africa Cove is part of

Look carefully in the many cracks and crevice for macro photo opportunities, such as this island kelpfish



Shining your light on the fragile star will reveal its rich red color

a Marine Conservation Area that prohibits the take of any invertebrates which, of course, include lobster. They are allowed to grow and populate unhindered.

Spearfishing, however, is allowed. For the most part this is not productive. But if you insist, turn to hunting for halibut. This has traditionally been a great spot for hunting ‘flatties’, although this will not produce any of the ‘barn door’ sized, to use halibut-hunter lingo. Halibut usually camouflage themselves partially buried in fields of sand. There are stretches of sand to the east and west of the reef as well as deep off the tip of the reef. Remember to always follow California Fish and Wildlife Department regulations. There are minimum sizes. If you choose to hunt halibut, get advice first. Specifics from a seasoned spearfisher should be sought. You need the right gear, a good eye, and most importantly, how to avoid the sharp teeth once they are shot. They bite!

As with most Catalina Island reefs, good portions of the rocks were sprinkled with bright blue-banded gobies (aka Catalina blue-banded gobies). You can’t miss these one- to two- inch-long reef fish with their bright red with iridescent blue bands. If you are lucky enough to get really close to these little guys for an in-tight photo, you’ll notice their tiny little fangs they use to pick bits of food out of the water column. They can actually look quite ferocious. ▶

At-A-Glance

Skill Level: Novice to advanced depending on particular section of the dive area.

Location: Along the front side (mainland side) of Catalina Island between the Lionhead Point west toward Arrow Point. GPS N33°27.383’, W118°30.722’.

Access: Boat only.

Entry and Exit: Usually easy in calm waters.

Depth Range: 20ft to 65ft.

Conditions: Usually protected with light but steady current and upwelling on end of reef.

Visibility: Good varying between 30 to 50 feet.

Photography: Very good for wide-angle with a highly varied reef structure. Macro fair.

Hunting: Invertebrate preserve. No lobster or other invertebrates may be taken. Spearfishing fair to poor.

Cautions: Boat traffic.

Fragile stars provide another color smattering. Touch them with your light and a rich brick red appears. These stars seemed to have dodged the bullet of the mysterious disease that decimated star populations of other species a few years back. The hurt species have begun to make a comeback, but there is only a little evidence here of that recovery.

Other interesting invertebrates here include big black sea hares with their spaghetti-like yellow egg clumps, octopus crammed hiding in holes, and big wavy turban snails.

The most-exciting part of this dive for me was the terrain. A ridge reef extends off the point approximately 150 yards. The sand bottom drops away on either side of the rocks but the reef narrows to a ridge as it extends out from shore. Reaching out from the island, the ridge becomes even more dramatic. There are deep crevices and holes to explore for marine life. Depending on many factors, there may be a kelp forest. Warm waters often lead to a kelp die off.

The more spectacular the reef becomes, the greater the size of the schools of swirling blacksmith fish. Bright orange garibaldi buzz around above and nest below as evidenced by the patches of yellow eggs that the males of the species guard voraciously. Look for large calico bass as they hole up in the mini caves.

Reaching seaward pinnacles dominate the scenery. At the very end of the ridge is the tallest peak that tops out at 25ft down dropping off vertically to a sand bottom at 65ft. The rocky point is bathed by a gentle but steady current keeping the water clear and full of dynamic fish creatures. This is my favorite place on this reef.

Dropping down to the bottom I could feel the upwelling. Burr! This chilly nutrient-rich water feeds the life on the reef. Cold, yes, but I knew this was the stuff of marine life abundance. I paused awhile appreciating the beauty of this ecological harmonic dance.

My beeping computer indicating a diminishing air supply, and the shivers from the cold told me I need to head for my safety stop and then surface. But next time I will be wearing my drysuit! ■

Sometimes you will see cabezon perched atop a boulder.

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Easy diving in CURR

Dale Sheckler offers some sage advice on diving in currents, touching on some of the main challenges, and some handy techniques

Photographs by Dale Sheckler

ENTS

While strong currents can make diving challenging, it also makes it exciting. Currents generally mean better water clarity. In current areas, marine life is more bountiful, active, and diverse. The currents bring in abundant nutrients, and in a feeding frenzy, marine life explodes with vibrancy. A current-swept reef is a thrilling and intense place.

There are benefits of diving in current, but it also presents profound challenges. Properly prepared, those potential problems can be reduced, even possibly eliminated.

Reading the currents

Of course, your best bet on reading the current is through the eyes of professional dive charter boat captains and Divemasters. They know the telltale signs of direction and strength of currents. Listen carefully at dive briefings and dive accordingly.

How a boat moves or sits when at rest can tell you a great deal about the conditions. A boat at rest, either at anchor or with the engine(s) idle, will be in influenced by a number of factors, including wind and currents. Second only to the boat's propulsion itself, wind has the most-pronounced effect. Although less than the wind, currents can have a definite effect on a resting boat. With little or no wind, with the engines idle, if the boat is moving, odds are it is due to currents. And a boat drifting in the currents can give you a pretty good idea as to direction and speed.

Another thing to look for is how a boat sits at anchor. Again, wind is the primary factor. With a moderate to ▸

During your dive, lessen the effects of the current by swimming horizontally into it. If possible, hug the bottom where it's generally less powerful

strong breeze, the bow will point into the direction of the wind. But if there is little or no wind, the boat will respond to the direction of the current, pointing the bow into the current. An indication of the strength of the surface current is also the way the water eddies and swirls off the back of the boat. You could also drop a floating line with buoy off the stern and see how it plays out and how quickly (more later on current lines in techniques).

Kelp can be a tremendous help in judging current strength in direction. If you want to dive in an area where you know there should be a large kelp canopy on the surface and it is missing, look into the water and see if it is stretched out in a horizontal fashion. This is a clear indication that a strong current is present and its direction of origin.

Current-diving techniques

There is a hard fast rule about diving in currents - always start your dives heading up current. Failing to do so leaves you at serious risk of not being able to return to your starting point. It is fairly simple - head into the current for the first half of your dive, and return to the anchored boat (or exit point) in a more-relaxed fashion with the current's help on the way back. On your return trip, be sure not to overshoot the boat or exit point and end up down current.

For current diving, a boat must be anchored properly so an experienced skipper is essential. Also, it is important that an experienced boat operator remain aboard should it slip anchor or a diver needs to be picked up.

In exceptionally strong currents, it is best you descend using the anchor line. Some larger California dive charter boats have a bow gate for entering the water, giving you immediate access to the anchor line. If you are entering the water from the sides or stern, a 'granny line' can be rigged along the side of the boat from the stern to the anchor line. With this line you can pull yourself to the anchor line and then descend. It is worthwhile at this point to mention that these are measures for experienced strong divers.

A trailing current line is a must. Tied off to the stern of the boat, it is brightly colored floating rope with an equally brightly colored buoy at the end. Approximately 100 yards is best maximum length. Should you overshoot the boat on returning, or the current suddenly comes up, or increases in intensity or shifts direction, the current line is your insurance for returning to the boat. Should you end up down current, head to the current line and then pull yourself back to the boat making sure on the way you are not tangling yourself in the rope in the process.

Before your dive, manage your gear properly making it as streamlined as possible. As you should during all your diving, secure loose straps, keep your BCD close to your body, and attach or tuck away your console and octopus.

During your dive you can lessen the effects of the current by swimming horizontally into it. If possible, hug the bottom where the current is generally less powerful. You can use bottom features such as ridges and mini-walls in the reef to duck behind to hide from the worst effects of the current. Holes in the bottom can also offer some protection from the current.

Across California reefs, you can sometimes use hand holds to pull yourself along (avoid this on tropical reefs at it will damage the coral). Kelp is also helpful to tug your way along. Some divers on a sand bottom even use a large knife stabbed into the bottom to hold their own in a strong current.

A difficult point in a current dive is the ascent and safety stop. Ideally you would return to the anchor line and ascend. If you are diving in a kelp forest the kelp again becomes our friend. Grab onto a long strong bundle of kelp, inflate your BCD until you are slightly positive then ascend your kelp 'down line' up to your safety stop.

> “ There is a hard fast rule about diving in currents - always start your dives heading up current. Failing to do so leaves you at serious risk of not being able to return to your starting point ”

If you are current diving in a kelp forest, a long strong bundle of kelp can serve as a 'down line' up to your safety stop

Without the benefit of the kelp or the anchor line, you will find yourself ascending in open water. Here a high-quality tube buoy with a large fishing weight attached to the buoy by a thin but strong rope is quite useful. Finding yourself in need of a safety stop in open water you simply inflate the buoy underwater, deploy the line and weight and hang off at the proper depth as the buoy bobs on the surface. This is also an excellent technique for alerting the chase boat of your location when 'live-boating' - which brings us to our next section.

Live boating is when the boat does not anchor but rather drifts along with the current with the experienced skipper picking up divers as they surface. It works best when the divers stick together as a group (which is what most commercial dive charter operators demand).

In many ways live-boat diving is the easiest diving you can do. Just float along with the current and be picked up when you are finished. But it also has its potential problems, obviously the worst being the boat can't find you for pick-up. Stay with the dive plan as outlined by the Divemaster. If it requires staying with the group, then do so. Do not divert from the plan of the dive. If you don't surface in the approximate area, it could take a long while for you to be found, or worse. A necessary piece of dive gear is a dive tube (aka 'safety sausage'). Don't skimp on quality. Once inflated, the brightly colored buoy stands high above the waves and dramatically increases your visibility and odds of being picked up. As mentioned above, the tube buoy can also be used for safety stops in open water. Other helpful items to consider carrying include a signaling mirror, air horn, strobe, waterproof flares or the Nautilus Lifeline device. It is a completely waterproof (425ft) VHS two-way radio that allows you to communicate with your dive boat or anybody else equipped with a VHS radio, such as other boats, the resort, comparably equipped other divers and search aircraft. It also features GPS, flashing locator beacon, and DSC-compatible distress alert.

As you advance in your diving expertise and experiences, you will inevitably encounter situations where you will be diving in currents, sometimes suddenly and without warning. But with proper knowledge, dive techniques and a few pieces of gear, your encounter with one of the ocean's most-powerful forces will be actually a pleasant one with delightful marine life becoming even more abuzz with a feeding dance as their dinner is brought to them borne on the movements of the sea. ■

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diveboats

Trip listings are subject to change.
Please visit the boats' websites for the most current calendars.
You can also find a complete calendar at cadivingnews.com/dive-trips/.

Date	Duration	Destination	Boat	Boat Location	Charter Group	Phone
10/3/25	1/2 Day	Lobster Night Boat — AOW Needed	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
10/3/25	3 Days	Lobster Hunting — San Miguel/Santa Rosa	Peace	Ventura	Anderson's Freediving	650-355-3050
10/3/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/4/25	1/2 Day	Lobster Night Boat — AOW Needed	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
10/4/25	3/4 Day	Advanced Certification Required	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/5/25	1/2 Day	Palos Verdes Peninsula	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
10/5/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/6/25	3 Days	Cortez — Bugzilla	Peace	Ventura	SeaDivers.org	Book Online
10/9/25	3 Days	Lobster Hunting — San Miguel/Santa Barbara	Peace	Ventura	High Sierra Divers	530-823-6757
10/10/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/11/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/12/25	2 Days	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
10/12/25	2 Days	Dr. Death — Outer Islands	Peace	Ventura	SeaDivers.org	Book Online
10/12/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/14/25	3 Days	Channel Islands Expedition	Peace	Ventura	Tacoma Underwater Sports	
10/17/25	3 Days	Private Charter	Peace	Ventura	Private Charter	
10/17/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/18/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/19/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/20/25	3 Days	Private Charter	Peace	Ventura	Private Charter	
10/23/25	3 Days	Lobster Hunting — Outer Islands	Peace	Ventura	CA Scuba Center	559-512-8727
10/24/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/25/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/26/25	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
10/26/25	3 Days	Channel Islands Expedition	Peace	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/26/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
10/29/25	3 Days	Channel Islands Expedition	Peace	Ventura	Dolphin Scuba	916-929-8188
10/31/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/1/25	3 Days	Anacapa Preserve Opener	Peace	Ventura	Tacoma Underwater Sports	
11/1/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/2/25	1/2 Day	Palos Verdes Peninsula	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
11/2/25	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
11/2/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/4/25	3 Days	Advanced Diving — Hunting Focus	Peace	Ventura	Sea Divers	Book Online
11/7/25	1 Day	Santa Barbara Island Lobster	Peace	Ventura	Scott Engelman	303-718-3156
11/7/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/8/25	2 Days	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
11/8/25	2 Days	2 Day Adventure	Peace	Ventura	Tri-Valley Dive Club	
11/8/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/9/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/10/25	5 Days	Private Research Charter	Peace	Ventura	Private Charter	
11/11/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/14/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
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11/15/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
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11/20/25	3 Days	Private Charter	Peace	Ventura	Private Charter	
11/21/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/22/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/23/25	1 Day	1 Day Adventure	Peace	Ventura	Blue Holic Scuba	323-641-7416
11/23/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/24/25	4 Days	Channel Islands Expedition	Peace	Ventura	Scuba Ventures	
11/28/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/29/25	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
11/29/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
11/30/25	1/2 Day	Palos Verdes Peninsula	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
11/30/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
12/1/25	4 Days	Private Charter	Peace	Ventura	Pacific Ocean Sports	
12/5/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
12/6/25	2 Days	San Miguel Pinnacles	Peace	Ventura	SeaDivers.org	Book Online
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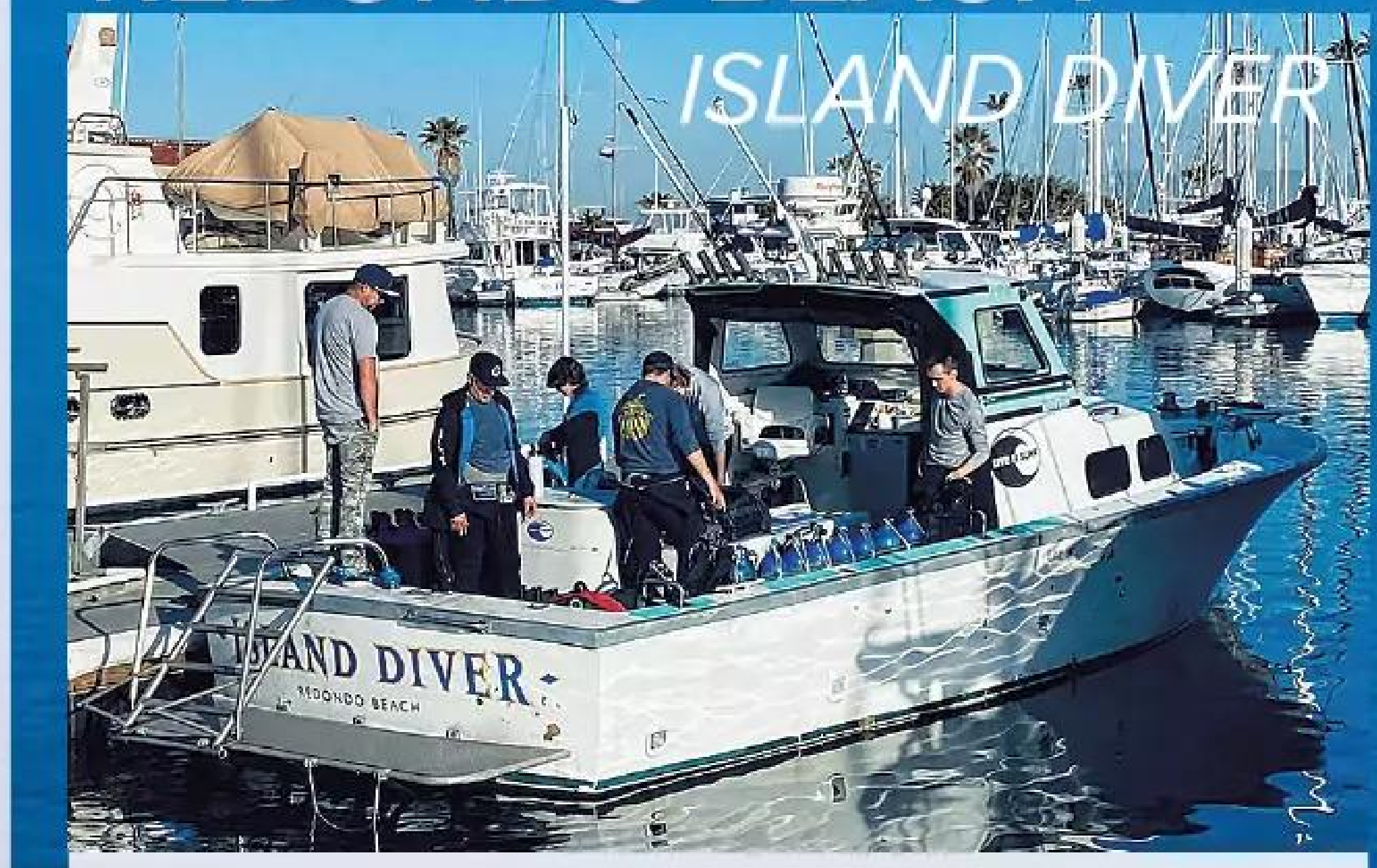
12/20/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
12/21/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
12/26/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
12/27/25	3/4 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
12/28/25	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
12/28/25	1/2 Day	Channel Islands	Raptor	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online

REDONDO BEACH



Size: 34'
Capacity: 6
Liveaboard: No
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Long Beach to Santa Monica, coastal
Phone: 310-372-8423
Website: divensurf.com
Email: dive@divensurf.com

VENTURA

Size: 65'
Capacity: 34
Liveaboard: Yes
Islands/Areas Served: Channel Islands
Phone: 949-247-1106
Website: peaceboat.com
Email: info@peaceboat.com

VENTURA

Size: 46'
Capacity: 20
Liveaboard: No
Islands/Areas Served:
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EVENTS CALENDAR

5TH OCTOBER (7AM MEETING)
Freediving Sunday Laguna Beach

12–13TH OCTOBER
Cortez Banks PacStar

18TH OCTOBER (6PM MEETING)
Club Aquarius

26TH OCTOBER
Catalina Island PacStar

2ND NOVEMBER
Catalina Island PacStar

7–9TH NOVEMBER
Three Day PacStar Begg Rock,
San Nicholas, Santa Barbara Island

15TH NOVEMBER (12PM)
Annual Turkey Shoot, SSA Ocean Sim

15TH NOVEMBER (6PM)
Club Aquarius meeting

16TH NOVEMBER (7AM)
Freediving Sunday Laguna Beach

29TH NOVEMBER
Catalina island PacStar

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OCTOBER 3

NORTH COAST KELPFEST

Events happening between October 3 — 6. Selected KelpFest events highlighted below.

🌐 **northcoastkelpfest.org**

KELPFEST: SEAWEED SPECTACLE PARADE

📍 **Mendocino**

Experience the creativity and enthusiasm of young artists as they bring the underwater world to life, showcasing the beauty and importance of kelp forests. Make your own costume and join in the fun!

🌐 **northcoastkelpfest.org**

CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM DISCOVERY LECTURE SERIES

📍 **San Pedro**

“Weird Walruses and Ocean ‘Hippos’:
Marine Mammals of Ancient California”
In this presentation, Gabriel-Philip Santos of the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology and cohost of PBS Eons, takes a deep dive into ancient seas.

🌐 **cma.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/events**

OCTOBER 4

CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM BEACH CLEANUP

📍 **San Pedro**

🌐 **cma.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/events**

KELPFEST: SENESCENCE CELEBRATION

📍 **Mendocino**

“Senescence” describes the process of cell deterioration with age. Bull kelp begins to senesce in the fall when its stipe reaches maturity, its blades release their sori, and its spores drift to the bottom of the ocean to settle on the reef where it attaches. Celebrate this cycle of growth with the opening of the Momím Wené art exhibit at the Mendocino Art Center.

🌐 **northcoastkelpfest.org**

OCTOBER 5

KELPFEST: TOUR OF BIG RIVER KELP RECOVERY PROJECT

📍 **Mendocino**

Learn about strategies the Big River Kelp Recovery team has developed to suppress purple urchin populations and outplant baby bull kelp and get the report on this year’s kelp recovery. Team members will also share methods of urchin harvesting, kelp outplanting and creating a visual record of seaweeds across this recovery site.

🌐 **northcoastkelpfest.org**

KELPFEST: GREY WHALE MURAL UNVEILING

📍 **Fort Bragg**

The Alleyway Art Project and North Coast Brewing Company unveil Fort Bragg’s newest, largest mural yet, “Gray Whale in Kelp.”

🌐 **northcoastkelpfest.org**

OCTOBER 6

KELPFEST: SUPER MOON URCHIN HARVEST AT SUNSET

📍 **Elk**

Take a magical sunset walk and gather purple urchins at low tide on the rise of the Super Full Moon, followed by a bonfire and blowing of the kelp horns.

🌐 **northcoastkelpfest.org**

OCTOBER 8

SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM FILM SCREENING

📍 **Santa Barbara**

“Sequoias of the Sea” is a powerful new documentary exploring the disappearance of Northern California’s kelp forests and the grassroots fight to restore them.

🌐 **sbmm.org**

OCTOBER 9

KELP FOREST TRIVIA NIGHT

📍 **Santa Barbara**

Join the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum for a fun, kelp forest-themed trivia night.

🌐 **sbmm.org**

CALIFORNIA SEAWEED FESTIVAL

📍 **San Pedro**

Events happening between October 9 — 11. See selected events below.

🌐 **californiaseaweedfestival.org**

OCTOBER 10

SEAWEED SPEAKEASY

📍 **San Pedro**

A curated evening that brings together start-ups, researchers, investors, policy leaders, and creatives transforming how we work with ocean ecosystems in the rapidly evolving Blue Economy.

🌐 **californiaseaweedfestival.org**

OCTOBER 11

NEWPORT HARBOR UNDERWATER CLEANUP

📍 **Newport Beach**

Collect trash, plastics, and other water pollutants in a dedicated effort to keep the 25.2 miles of coastline, bay, and harbor waterways pollution-free.

🌐 **newportharborunderwatercleanup.com**

CALIFORNIA SEAWEED FESTIVAL AT SEA FAIR

📍 **San Pedro**

Free, family friendly day of seaweed fun, featuring hands-on activities, vendors, live music, magical creatures, touch tanks, and more.

🌐 **californiaseaweedfestival.org**

OCTOBER 12

SHARK FEST CLEANUP AT AQUATIC PARK

📍 **Berkeley**

🌐 **sharkstewards.org**

OCTOBER 18

CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM SEA SCARE '25

San Pedro

A family friendly night of thrills, chills, and gills is guaranteed!

cma.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/events

STOKED ON SCIENCE: EXPLORING CAREERS IN OCEAN SCIENCE

Dana Point

At the Ocean Institute's Stoked on Science Conference, teens will gain an understanding of the education and career pathways in ocean science.

oceaninstitute.org

OCTOBER 21

CLEAN UP THE BEACH

Venice

Halloween costume contest! Clean Up the Beach is a nonprofit organization that hosts monthly clean-ups at Venice Beach.

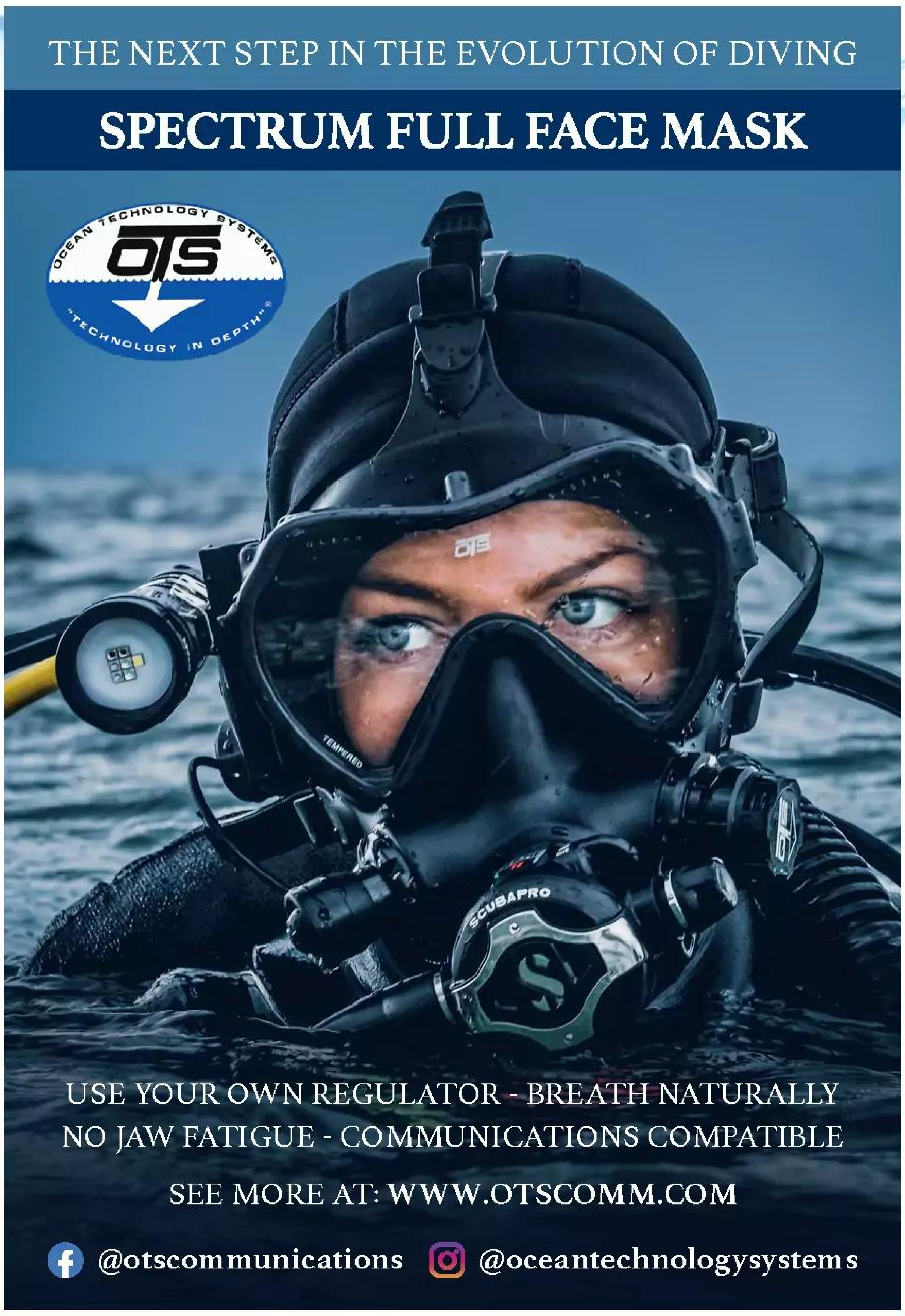
bit.ly/cleanup-venice-cdn

NOVEMBER 28

BLUE FRIDAY

"Don't Shop. Dive!" Join divers in a healthy alternative to Black Friday by celebrating this event now in its 5th year.

gil@zeimer.com ■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NO JAW FATIGUE - COMMUNICATIONS COMPATIBLE
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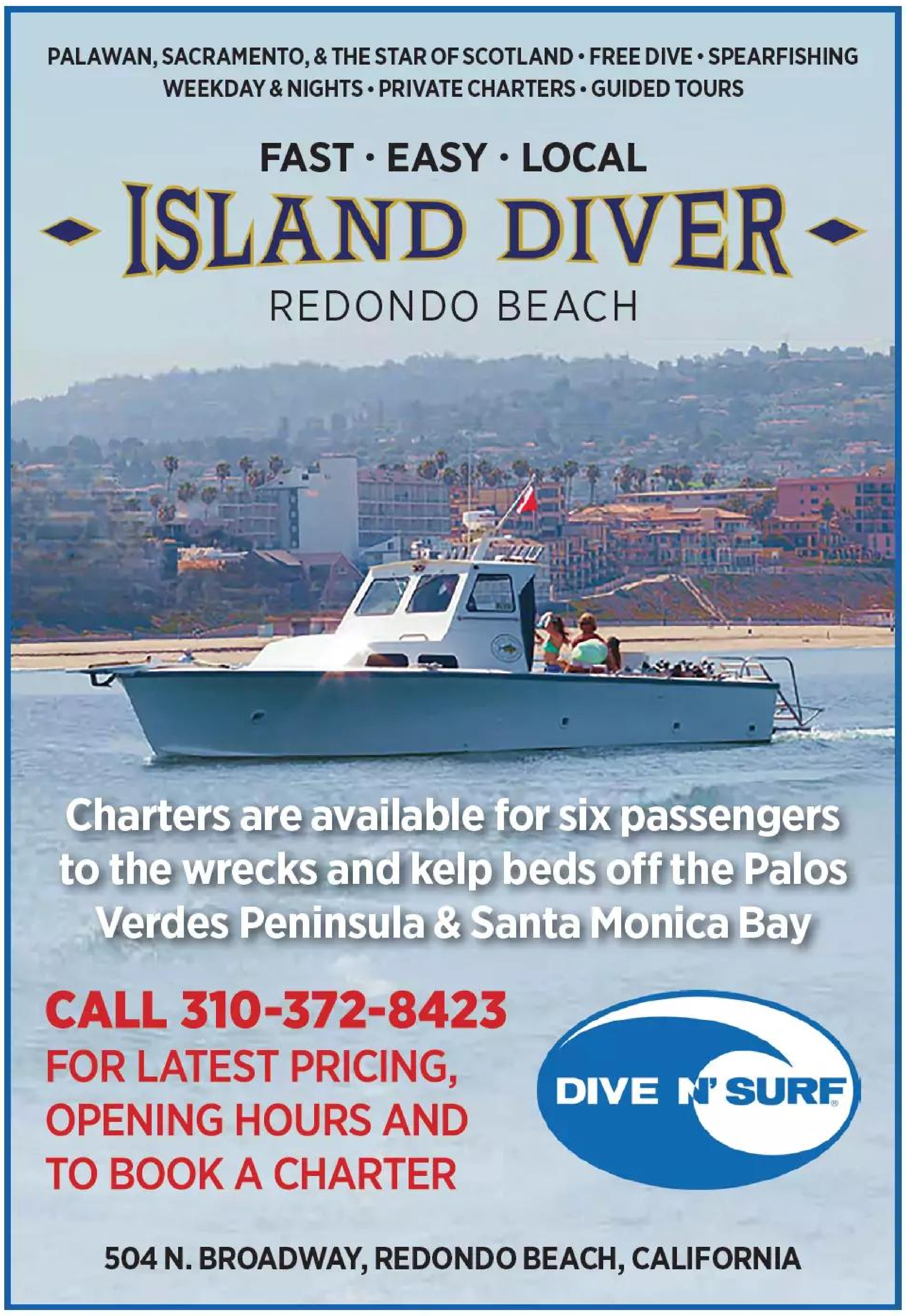
@otscommunications @oceantechnologysystems


PALAWAN, SACRAMENTO, & THE STAR OF SCOTLAND • FREE DIVE • SPEARFISHING
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ISLAND DIVER
REDONDO BEACH
Charters are available for six passengers to the wrecks and kelp beds off the Palos Verdes Peninsula & Santa Monica Bay
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DIVE N' SURF
504 N. BROADWAY, REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Group Trips for Adventurous Divers
We're a community of passionate dive travelers exploring the world's most incredible underwater destinations — one epic trip at a time.
Join Us in Socorro| April 24–May 2, 2026
It's bait ball season – when the ocean explodes with life, and every dive feels like a front-row seat to the wildest show underwater.
Trip Highlights Include:
🦈 Sharks on every dive -- schooling hammerheads, silvertips, silkies, & more!
🐠 Massive bait balls
Meet the world's friendliest mantas — graceful, curious, & interactive
🚢 Up to 4 dives a day, full board accommodations, and the top-notch crew of the **Nautilus Explorer**
pictures provided by Nautilus
Spots are limited — join the adventure:
Global Adventures for Scuba Divers & other cool people
gasdivers.com info@gasdivers.com 469-435-4073

dive**center**directory

Find *California Diving News* at these western dive centers.

BAY AREA

Anderson's Scuba Diving
541 Oceana Blvd,
Pacifica 650-355-3050

Any Water Sports
1344 Saratoga Ave, San Jose
408-244-4433

Bamboo Reef Enterprises
584 4th St, San Francisco
415-362-6694

Deep Ocean Explore Store
650 W Tower Ave, Alameda
510-626-9044

Dive N Trips
1032 Serpentine Ln #108,
Pleasanton 925-462-7234

Diver Dan's Wet Pleasure Inc.
2245 El Camino Real, Santa
Clara 408-984-5819

Marin Dive Center
3765 Redwood Hwy, San
Rafael 415-479-4332

Pacific Ocean Sports
936 Detroit Ave E, Concord
925-687-5354

Pacific Ocean Water Sports
431 First Street, Gilroy
408-713-1211

Pacific Scuba Divers Inc
1179 East Homestead Road,
Sunnyvale 408-247-7702

Pinnacles Dive Center
875 Grant Ave, Novato
415-897-9962

S.c.u.b.a.
1827 Venice Lane, Antioch
925-755-7268

Scuba Fusion
1210 S El Camino Real,
San Mateo 650-212-3483

Seal Watersports
2112 Armory Drive,
Santa Rosa 707-542-3100

Sonoma Coast Divers
5702 Commerce Blvd, Rohnert
Park 707-586-0272

CATALINA

Catalina Divers Supply
7 Green Pleasure Pier, Avalon
310-510-0330

Catalina Divers Supply
126 Catalina Ave, Avalon
310-510-2350

Dive Catalina
Po Box 1262, Avalon
310-510-3175

Two Harbors
Dive & Recreation Ctr
1 Banning House Rd, Avalon
310-510-4272

CENTRAL COAST

Adventure Sports Unlimited
303 Potrero St Ste 15,
Santa Cruz 831-458-3648

Aqua Safaris Scuba Center
6896-A Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz
831-479-4386

Aquarius Dive Shop
2040 Del Monte Ave, Monterey
831-375-1933

Bamboo Reef Dive Center
614 Lighthouse Ave, Monterey
831-372-1685

Depth Perceptions Diving
Services
12322 Los Osos Valley Rd, San
Luis Obispo 805-595-3631

Monterey Bay Scuba
32 Cannery Row, Monterey
831-533-3483

Pismo Beach Dive Shop
470 Price St, Pismo Beach
805-773-2089

Slo Ocean Currents
3121 S Higuera St Ste B, San
Luis Obispo 805-544-7227

CENTRAL VALLEY

Aqua Sports
1616 E Shields Av., Fresno
559-224-0744

Aquatic Dreams Scuba Center
1212 Kansas Ave, Modesto
209-577-3483

Bakersfield Scuba
1918 G St, Bakersfield
661-324-3337

California Scuba Center
510 Shaw Ave, Clovis
559-908-1444

Dolphin Scuba Center
1530 El Camino Ave, Sacramento 916-929-8188

Fisheye Scuba
8679b Auburn Folsom Rd,
Granite Bay 916-850-1145

Free Dive Shop
4674 Duckhorn Drive, Sacramento 916-371-3410

High Sierra Divers Inc.
217 Palm Ave, Auburn
530-823-6757

Howell's Dive Shop
1426 Eureka Way, Redding
530-241-1571

Justin's Scuba Time
3255 W Hammer Lane #2,
Stockton 209-851-2928

Sac City Scuba
5114 Madison Ave, Sacramento
916-772-3483

Scuba Hut
2725 State Highway 32 Ste F,
Chico 530-636-2644

Scuba World
5114 Madison Ave, Sacramento
916-332-8294

INLAND EMPIRE

American Scuba Academy
1551 East Ontario Avenue #105,
Corona 951-496-4148

Riverside Scuba
1043 W La Cadena Dr, Riverside
951-682-3483

Scuba Center Temecula
28860 Old Town Front St #A9,
Temecula 951-506-0252

Scuba Choice
1531 5th Street, Twentynine
Palms 909-643-5552

Scuba Choice
14020 Central Avenue #530,
Chino 909-643-5552

Scuba Schools Of America
4420 Holt Blvd, Montclair
909-621-4171

Signature Scuba
11955 Jack Benny Dr, Rancho
Cucamonga 909-476-8183

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Aloha Dive
7620 Tampa Ave, Reseda
818-345-3483

Aquanautics Dive Inc
13059 San Fernando Road,
Sylmar 818-362-2800

Blue Holic Scuba
3636 West Olympic Blvd #A,
Los Angeles 323-641-7416

Channel Islands Scuba
1348 N Moorpark Rd Unit B,
Thousand Oaks
805-230-9995

Dive N' Surf Inc.
504 N Broadway St, Redondo
Beach 310-372-8423

Divers West
257 S Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena 626-529-5220

Eco Dive Center
4027 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver
City 310-398-5759

Free Dive And Spear
950 Aviation Blvd #B, Hermosa
Beach 310-374-7333

Hollywood Divers
3575 Cahuenga Blvd West,
Los Angeles 323-969-9666

In 2 Deep Diving
3103 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica
424-744-8384

Malibu Divers
21231 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu
310-456-2396

Ocean Safari
125 E Las Tunas Dr, San Gabriel
626-287-6283

Pacific Wilderness
1719 S Pacific Ave, San Pedro
310-833-2422

Pch Scuba
5284 Kanan Road, Agoura Hills
818-891-1800

Sharky's Scuba & Swim
490 W Arrow Hwy F,
San Dimas 909-596-2505

Spear America South Bay
2301 Artesia Blvd Ste 2,
Redondo Beach 424-247-8509

Zen Dive Co.
2020 Lincoln Ave, Pasadena
(866) 936-3483

NORTH COAST

Pacific Outfitters
1600 5th St, Eurika
707-443-6328

Pacific Quest Dive Center
110 D. St., Crescent City
707-464-8753

ORANGE COUNTY

Beach Cities Scuba
34283 Pacific Coast Hwy,
Dana Point 949-496-5891

Beach Cities Scuba
6021 Orange Ave, Cypress
714-527-1500

Beach Cities Scuba Center
4537 W Coast Hwy, Newport
Beach 949-650-5440

Beach Cities Scuba Mania
19036 Brookhurst, Huntington
Bch 714-378-2611

Dive & Photo
3033 Bristol St Ste F2,
Costa Mesa 949-476-8500

Laguna Sea Sports
925 N Coast Hwy, Laguna
Beach 949-494-6965

Lost Winds Dive Shop
2411 S El Camino Real,
San Clemente 949-303-0835

Ocean Gear
6836 Edinger Ave,
Huntington Beach 714-375-0595

Openwater Habitat
1800 E 1st St, Santa Ana
714-558-1055

Scuba.com
1781 Newport Blvd, Ste A, Costa
Mesa CA

Scuba World
1706 N. Tustin St.,
Orange, 714 998 6382

Sea Stallion Scuba Outfitters
21098 Bake Pkwy Ste 108,
Lake Forest 949-699-3600

Spear America
2950 Airway Ave Unit A7,
Costa Mesa 949-536-5336

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Beyond Land Adventures
3445 Midway Dr G,
San Diego 619-366-6266

House Of Scuba
5141 Santa Fe Street Ste #A,
San Diego 858-581-2800

La Jolla Watersports
2710 Garenet Avenue #110,
San Diego 619-788-6416

North County Scuba Center
122 Encinitas Blvd,
Encinitas 760-753-0036

Ocean Enterprises
7710 Balboa Ave Ste 101,
San Diego 858-565-6054

Oceanside Scuba and Swim
225 Brooks St, Oceanside
760-231-1332

San Diego Divers
11211 Sorrento Valley Rd Ste P,
San Diego 858-458-1348

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Blue Water Hunter
117-D Harbor Way, Santa
Barbara 800-452-6696

Santa Barbara Aquatics
5822 Hollister Ave, Goleta
805-967-4456

Sea Landing Dive Center
301 West Cabrillo Blvd,
Santa Barbara 805-963-3564

VENTURA COUNTY

Maverick Undersea Divers
425 Constitutions Ave G,
Camarillo 805-484-0051

Sc Diving
575 Dawson Drive Ste9,
Camarillo 805-207-7272

Ventura Dive & Sport
1559 Spinnaker Dr Ste 108,
Ventura 805-650-6500

ARIZONA

72 Aquatics
3110 East Fort Lowell, Tucson
520-887-2822

Alexander's Dive Shop Too
590 N Morley Ave, Nogales
520-287-5103

Arizona Dive Center
10001 W Bell Road, Sun City
855-777-2822

Arizona Scuba Shack
1349 S 22nd Dr, Yuma
928-783-1177

Dive Arizona
18618 S 186th Way,
Queen Creek 480-493-4089

Dive Shack Usa
1047 Highway 95 Ste B, Bull
Head City 928-404-1527

Diventures
9299 W Olive Ave #816,
Peoria 602-314-6650

El Mar Diving Centers
2245 W Broadway, Mesa
480-833-2971

Fins Up Scuba
6730 E Mcdowell Rd Ste 115,
Scottsdale 480-794-1109

Inland Water Divers
13220 W Van Buren Rd #102,
Goodyear 623-882-9060

Johns Scuba Shop
3005 North Highway 89, Suite
C, Prescott 928-778-3483

No Limits Scuba
744 W Elliot Rd #106 Tempe
480-625-0591

Paragon Dive Group
2951 N Swan Road Suite 175,
Tucson 520-771-8214

Phoenix Scuba
8502 N Black Canyon Hwy Ste
H, Phoenix 602-374-3206

Salt and Sea Scuba
4139 W Bell Rd Ste 17, Phoenix
602-601-6114

Saguaro Diving & Sports
908 E Impala Ave, Mesa
480-507-3988

Scottsdale Scuba
10636 N 71st Way Ste 14,
Scottsdale 480-998-1900

Scuba Training & Technology
Inc
2150 Kiowa Blvd, Lake Havasu
City 928-855-9400

Sea 2 Sea Scuba
3217 E Shea Blvd Ste 5,
Phoenix 480-448-5696

Summit Divers
103 S Milton Rd, Flagstaff 928-556-8780

The Dive Shop
1702 E Prince Rd #150, Tucson
520-326-2424

The Scuba Shop
1122 South Greenfield Rd Suite
104, Mesa 480-705-9327

NEVADA

3rd Reef Divers
80 N. Pecos, STE. C, Henderson 725-735-2000

Aai Neptune Divers
1505 Falling Snow Ave,
Las Vegas 702-452-5723

Adventure Scuba
335 Edison Way, Reno
775-826-5333

Sierra Diving Center
104 E Grove St, Reno
775-825-2147

Simply Scuba
8544 Ble Diamond Road
Ste 150,
Las Vegas 702-462-5727

Sin City Scuba
1421 E Sunset Rd #10, Las
Vegas 702-336-8451

Stone Sports
4965 S Fort Apache Rd,
Las Vegas 800-238-9507

Tahoe Dive Center
209 Kingsbury Grade Unit 1d,
Stateline 775-884-3483

OREGON

Adventure Sports Inc
24023 Ne Shea Lane Unit #109,
Woodvillage
503-491-0107

Aquatic Sports & Scuba Ctr.
10803 Sw Barbur Blvd, Portland
503-245-4991

Astoria Scuba
100 39th St, Astoria
503-325-2502

Central Oregon Diving
157 Greenwood Ave, Bend
541-388-3660

Coral Sea Scuba & Watersports
123 Sw M Street, Grants Pass
541-472-8111

Eugene Skin Divers Supply
1090 W 6th Ave, Eugene
541-342-2351

Ocean Paradise Dive And Travel
9895 Se Sunnyside Rd, Ste H,
Clackamas 503-653-3114

Pacific Watersports Inc.
17128 Sw Shaw St, Beaverton
503-642-3483

Rogue Scuba
6022 Crater Lake Ave, Central
Point 541-830-5551

Salem Scuba Diving,
Equipment & Adventure
1170 Vista Ave Se, Salem
503-588-3483

Underwater Works Inc.
12170 Sw Main St, Tigard 503-620-6993

UTAH

Access Scuba
446 N Park Street Ste F, St
George 435-628-3483

Adventure Plus
765 N Bluff St #D, Saint George
435-674-0082

Adventure West Scuba
1875 East Skyline Drive,
So Ogden 801-476-1300

Aqua Sports
431 W Tabernacle, St George
435-688-3483

Bonneville Sea Base
1600 N Sr 138, Grantsville
801-884-3874

Caribbean Dreamin Scuba
4520 Old Hwy 40, Park City
385-442-9065

Dive Addicts
12356 S 900 E #102, Draper
801-572-5111

Dive Utah
4679 South 2225 East, Holladay 801-277-3483

Dive Utah
1354 W Henkley Ave, Ogden
801-394-8842

Dixie Divers
558 E Riverside Dr Ste 108,
St George 435-627-2173

Neptune Divers
2445 S 900 E, Salt Lake City
801-466-9630

North American Divers
350 E 800 S., Orem
801-491-3483

Scuba For You
31 West 7065 South, Midvale
801-856-1158

Scuba Utah
1942 E 7000 S, Salt Lake City
801-942-2100

Scubaholics Dive Club
224 S Main St, Centerville
801-390-8273

The Dive Shop
429 W 500 S., Bountiful
801-295-5445

The Scuba Dive
2478 W 12600 S, Riverton
801-260-2100

WASHINGTON

Anacortes Diving And Supply
2502 Commercial Ave, Anacortes 360-293-2070

Eight Diving Co
22311 Marine View Dr S, Des
Moines 206-429-3480

Evergreen Dive Services
4610 Evergreen Way Ste 1,
Everett 425-512-8811

Exotic Aquatics Ltd
328 Madison Ave N Ste B,
Bainbridge Isl 206-842-1980

Lighthouse Diving Center
7315 27th St W, Suite B1,
University Place 253-627-7617

Lighthouse Diving Center
13718 31st Ave W,
Lynnwood, WA 98078
425-771-2679, 800-777-DIVE

Octopus Gardens Diving
2410 Washington Suite D,
Port Townsend
360-385-3483

Orca Scuba Center
223 Ohme Garden Rd, Wenatchee 509-665-0660

Silent World
Diving Systems Inc.
1910 132nd Ave Ne Ste 11,
Bellevue 425-747-8842

Sound Dive Center Inc.
5000 Burwell St, Bremerton
360-373-6141

Tacoma Scuba Center
1602 Center Street Suite C,
Tacoma 253-238-1754

Thunder Reef Divers Inc.
12104 Ne Highway 99, Vancouver 360-573-8507

Tl Sea Diving Llc
23405 Pacific Highway South,
Seattle 206-824-4100

Undersea Adventures Inc.
6855 W Clearwater Ave #G,
Kennewick 509-735-0735

Underwater Sports Inc.
10545 Aurora Ave N, Seattle
206-362-3310

Underwater Sports Inc.
9606 40th Ave Sw, Lakewood
253-588-6634

Underwater Sports Inc.
12003 Ne 12th Street #59,
Bellevue 425-454-5168

Underwater Sports Inc.
264 Railroad Ave, Edmonds
425-771-6322

Underwater Sports Inc.
34428 Pacific Hwy S, Federal
Way 253-874-9387

Whitworth Aquatic Center
W 300 Hawthorne Rd, Spokane
509-466-3297

Yss Dive
24080 N Hwy 101 P.o. Box 1187,
Hoodsport 360-877-2318

Joining a local dive club is a great way to add a social element to diving, and to make new like-minded friends. The following clubs have been confirmed to be around and active. To be listed in this directory and at www.cadivingnews.com send your club info to mail@scubashow.com. Copies of California Diving News will be shipped to recognized dive clubs for your members at no charge.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ANTELOPE VALLEY DESERT DIVERS: Meets 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm at the Palmdale Cultural Center | avdesertdivers.org | avdesertdive@gmail.com

BARNACLE BUSTERS LGBT SCUBA CLUB: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month | barnaclebusters.org | gaydivers@sbcglobal.net

CALIFORNIA WRECK DIVERS: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Round Table Pizza, 4330 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance | cawreckdivers.org | webmaster@cawreckdivers.org

DOUGLAS DIVE CLUB: facebook.com/groups/676947145694656

FATHOMIERS: Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm | fathomiers.net | fathomiers@gmail.com

LOS ANGELES BLACK U/W EXPLORERS: For club calendar and membership meeting information go to MeetUp.com/labuedivers | labue.org | labue@sbcglobal.net

LOS ANGELES U/W PHOTO SOCIETY: Meets 3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:30pm — Location TBA | LAUPS.org | president@laups.org

SOLE SEARCHERS DIVE CLUB, INC: Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at zen dive co., 2020 Lincoln Ave Suite A, Pasadena| solesearchersdiveclub.com | divers@solesearchersdiveclub.com

THE SEA DIVERS: Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Round Table Pizza, 4330 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance | seadivers.org | reservations@SeaDivers.org

WHALERS DIVE CLUB: whalersdiveclub.com | info@whalersdiveclub.com

ZEN DIVE CLUB: shore dives planned first and third weekend of each month, conditions permitting. Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/450804939548385/; Instagram: @zendiveclub; Email: club@zendive.com

VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at Black Bear Diner, 2401 Harbor Blvd, Ventura CA | channelislandsdivers.org | president@channelislandsdivers.org

PARADISE DIVE CLUB: Meets last Tuesday of the month at 6pm at Brass Bear Uptown in Santa Barbara | paradisediveclub.org | info@paradisediveclub.org

ORANGE COUNTY

AMERICAN LEGION YACHT CLUB DIVE AND SNORKEL CLUB: Meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Hut at American Legion Post 291, Newport Beach | alyc.com/page-1754555 | divechair@alyc.com

DIVE 714: facebook.com/groups/dive714

DIVE 760: facebook.com/groups/dive760

DIVE 949: facebook.com/groups/DIVE949

D.I.V.E.R.S.: Meets the second Wednesday of each month at McDonalds, 1839 West Chapman Avenue. Club Information 714-833-9167 | www.ecodivers.org.

OBDC: Meets quarterly at 7pm at Remax in Irvine | obdc.org | DiverJane@obdc.org

OC SPEAROS CLUB: ocspearos.org | info@ocspearos.org

ORANGE COUNTY U/W PHOTO SOCIETY: Meets 2nd Tuesday the month at 7pm-Location TBA | ocups.org | ocups1@gmail.com

PACIFIC COAST DIVE CLUB: Multiple dives planned every month (Thursdays and Sundays). Various shore locations, meet time 6:30 am | https://www.facebook.com/groups/PacificCoastDiveClub | Info@scuba.com | Scuba.com

SHARK BAIT DIVE CLUB: Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm - Call for location | 714-357-4623 | sharkbaitdiveclub.org | sharkbaitdive@gmail.com

SOUTH COAST DIVERS: Meets every Saturday at 7:30am at the Laguna Hills Mall | southcoastdivers.com | rich@southcoastdivers.com

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY DIVE CLUB: Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Buffalo Wild Wings Kaleidoscope Mission Viejo | socdc.com | socdcdiving@gmail.com

SAN DIEGO

DIVE ANIMALS SCUBA CLUB: diveanimals.com | contact@diveanimals.com

POWER SCUBA: Multiple times a week. Various shore and boat locations throughout San Diego County and beyond | www.powerscuba.org

SAN DIEGO DIVE CLUB: Meets 1st Thursday of month at 7pm at Hooley's Public House | 5500 Grossmont Center Dr. | La Mesa, CA 91942 | sandiegodiveclub.com | president@sandiegodiveclub.com

SAN DIEGO U/W PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: Meets 4th Thursday of the month at 7pm — Location TBA | sdups.org | sdups1961@gmail.com

INLAND EMPIRE

CLUB AQUARIUS: Meets every 6 weeks at 6pm at Scuba Schools of America & Swim | scubaschoolsofamerica.com/club-aquarius | scubaschoolsofamerica@gmail.com

REEF RANGERS DIVE CLUB: Meets the first Thursday of every month at American Scuba Academy, 1551 E. Ontario Ave. Corona

SIGNATURE UNDERWATER DIVERS — RANCHO CUCAMONGA: Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at Round Table Pizza in Fontana | signaturescubadiving.com/our-club | signatureunderwaterdivers@gmail.com

CENTRAL COAST

MONTEREY BAY SEA OTTERS: Meets last Wednesday of the month at 7pm — Virtual | montereybayseaotters.org | president@montereybayseaotters.org

UNDERWATER VOYAGERS: Meets for weekly night dives and weekend day dives at Aquarius Dive Shop, 2040 Del Monte Ave., Monterey | aquariusdivers.com/dive-club | info@aquariusdivers.com

CENTRAL VALLEY

DOLPHIN DIVERS OF SACRAMENTO: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at Mountain Mike's Pizza at 2220 Gold Springs Ct. Gold River, CA 95670 | dolphin divers.org

BAY AREA

ALACOSTA DIVERS: Meets 1st Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the Orinda Public Library in Orinda | alacosta.org | infomat@alacosta.org

AQUA TUTUS: Meets 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm at Round Table Pizza in Castro Valley | aquatutus.org | newsletter@aquatutus.org

CALIDIVERS SCUBA DIVING CLUB: calidivers.org

MARIN SCUBA CLUB: Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Sausalito Parks & Rec Center, Exercise Room, 420 Litho Street, Sausalito | marinscubaclub.org | membership@marinscubaclub.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SKIN DIVERS CLUB: We have at least one dive every month. Check website for 2022 event schedule | norcalskindivers.com | garrattb@gmail.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA U/W PHOTO SOCIETY: Meets 2nd Friday of the month at 7pm, via Zoom for now | ncups.org | info@ncups.org

SALT WATER REVIVAL CLUB: Meets annually on our SoCal Lobster Opening multi-day trip. Several Central and NorCal dive, boat and camp events scheduled throughout the year | saltwaterrevival1969@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/groups/256771389715384

SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Movable Feast | sfreefdivers.org | sfreefdiver@comcast.net

SAN JOSE FLIPPER DIPPERS: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall, 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell | SJFlipperDippers.com | clubinfo@SJFlipperDippers.com

TRI-VALLEY DIVE CLUB: We meet the third Thursday of every month in Pleasanton. We sponsor 1-2 local dives every month and several regional dive trips each year. Trivalleydiveclub@gmail.com

NORTH COAST

HUMBOLDT SKINDIVERS: Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month | humboldtskindivers.com | cnotthoff@gmail.com

ARIZONA

ARIZONA DIVE CENTER: (co-ed) club meets the last Wednesday monthly at 6:30 pm for dinner at Dillon's BBQ, 20585 N 59th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308. www.arizonadivecenter.com

DESERT DOLPHINS SCUBA DIVE CLUB of TUCSON: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm | DesertDolphins.org | dolphins@desertdolphins.org

SCUBA GIRLS ARIZONA: Meets the 2nd Tuesday monthly at 6:30 pm for social dinner. Locations vary each month. Please see our Facebook events for locations. www.arizonadivecenter.com

SCUBA CLUB TUCSON: Quarterly Meetings at Paragon Dive Group, 2951 N Swan Road Suite 175, Tucson | (520) 771 8214 www.scubaclubtucson.com

THE DIVING EVENT OF THE YEAR
2026 SCUBA SHOW
LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER MAY 30 - 31, 2026
ATLANTIC CITY CONVENTION CENTER JUNE 6-7, 2026

#ASKMARK

#AskMark is our scuba diving Q&A section to answer your scuba diving questions. Have a burning question about buoyancy control, or big dreams of becoming a Divemaster? Mark Newman, a Pro Diver since 2009, is here to answer your questions and share his expert knowledge – no question is too basic or bizarre! **So, gear up, dive in, and let's #AskMark**

@MrElvisr27

#AskMark: My new computer came with a 275ft dive already recorded. Is that normal or used? Can I delete the logs if I want?

It is not unusual for new dive computers to have a test dive in their logbook from new. Every dive computer manufactured should undergo a test dive in a pressurised container to ensure it is working properly. Some manufacturers will clear the test dive while others will leave it so that you can see it has been tested. If you look at the dive profile, a test dive will have very straight lines as if done by a machine.

I would only be worried if the dive profile is wavy and looks like a human took the computer for a dive and there were obvious signs that the box had been opened before. It's very hard to repackage computers like new. Some computers will allow you to delete individual dive logs either on the computer or on an app. And some computers can be formatted completely, which can remove all logs.

seac
OC
32
25.8 m
NDL
8
MIX
21 %
185 bar
TABLET

@jadurkin1

#AskMark: Is it bad practice to leave the transmitter on your first stage?

It's fine to leave your transmitter on your first stage during storage. Transmitters will go to sleep a few minutes after you depressurise your regulators to save battery and reawaken when you pressurise them again for your next dive. If the transmitter is attached directly to the first stage, then a good knock can damage the transmitter or your first stage.

Many divers use a short high-pressure hose between the first stage and the transmitter to add flexibility to the transmitter. While you could remove the transmitter between uses, you increase the risk of damaging the threads or forgetting the transmitter or the swivel pin if you're using a hose. It's best to leave your transmitter in place.

SUUNTO
FINLAND
CE

@giacmon85

#AskMark: Would you recommend mounting a small dive knife on a regulator pressure hose?

SCUBAPRO
SCUBAPRO

There are pros and cons to mounting a cutting tool to a hose. The main benefit is that they're easy to find and reach, and if the knife is attached to your regulator, then you can't leave it behind for a dive. There are several downsides, however.

The largest risk is the potential for damaging the hose. Whenever you need to use the cutting device, it starts very close to a hose and when you go to put it away, it's close to the hose again and there is the chance of you cutting the hose. And because the sheath is attached to the hose, any small nicks will be in the same place along the hose. The knife will add some weight and a snag hazard to that hose, so knife placement should be a careful consideration.

DAN

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- DAN *TravelAssist*® Benefits
- Online Safety Resources
- *Alert Diver*® Magazine
- Medical & Safety Consultations

DAN membership includes automatic enrollment in DAN *TravelAssist*® and this is only a brief description of the coverages available under that program. Refer to the DAN member benefit handbook for reductions, limitations, exclusions, definitions, and termination provisions. Coverage may vary by state or may not be available in all states. DAN membership alone does not provide coverage for costs of a dive accident; dive accident insurance must be purchased separately for each member.

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